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Asia-Pacific News Agencies Hold Conference

OW2409061891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0301 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—A four-day conference of news agencies in the Asia-Pacific Region opened Tuesday at the Tokyo headquarters of Japan's KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

The president of KYODO, Yasuhiko Inukai, welcomed delegates of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) to a meeting of OANA's executive board.

The organization's current president, the head of Indonesia's ANTARA NEWS AGENCY Handjojo Nitimihardjo, said the meeting was taking place in an era of globalization marked by rapid political changes in Europe and increasing interdependency among nations.

He said, "Therefore, I believe our current meeting should also be able to reflect the fact that any tension among Asia-Pacific nations is history and that we are now moving toward an even stronger cooperation benefiting all OANA members in particular and the Asia-Pacific peoples in general."

A general assembly of OANA attended by representatives of 18 news agencies in 16 countries, in addition to KYODO, will begin Tuesday afternoon with a symposium on Asia and the Pacific in the 21st century and the role of the media. The symposium is being held at the Japan National Press Club, with former Foreign Minister Saburo Okita as guest speaker.

The assembly, attended by some 60 participants, will move to Oyama near the resort city of Gotemba in Shizuoka Prefecture, west of Tokyo, on Wednesday for three days of discussions which will include ways to promote the exchange of information in the Asia-Pacific region and improve OANA's capability to send data from the region to the rest of the world.

During the assembly KYODO is expected to be elected as president of OANA for a three-year term, succeeding Antara.

Established in 1961 on the initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to promote mutual exchanges among news agencies in the Asia-Pacific Region, OANA groups 25 agencies in 20 countries.

Its activities include the training of journalists and engineers and the holding of editorial and engineering workshops. The member agencies exchange news and photographs through an Asian news network to which each agency contributes 1,700 words per day. OANA holds a general assembly every three years.

Japan

Akihito Responds to Southeast Asian Questions

OW2409003691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0001 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 (KYODO)—Emperor Akihito has told journalists from three Asian countries he will begin touring later this month that genuine world peace is possible without resorting to military force, Imperial Household Agency officials said Tuesday.

The Emperor made his views known in response to written questions submitted by journalists from Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia who visited Japan earlier in the month as guests of the Foreign Ministry, the officials said.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko will make an 11-day tour of the three nations from September 26 to October 6.

The Asian swing will be the first by a Japanese emperor and the first overseas trip for Emperor Akihito since he ascended to the throne in January 1989.

In their questions, Malaysian and Indonesian journalists touched upon Japan's military occupation of their countries during World War II and said many elderly people in both nations are concerned that Japan still has expansionist desires in the Asian region.

"Based on their war experience, the Japanese people are very impressed with how important peace is," the Emperor said in response.

"If the Asian people fully understand the current Japanese Peace Constitution, they can wipe out such apprehensions," he added.

Asked by Thai journalists whether Japan feels responsible as an industrialized country for cleaning up the environment, the Emperor expressed concern with the issue such as increase of nitrogen oxides (NOX) caused by automobile exhaust, saying the Japanese people had experienced the health hazards caused by pollution in the past.

The Emperor also said his determination to act in accordance with the people's wishes has helped maintain respect among the general populace for the imperial institution.

Thai Trip, Local, Foreign Role

BK2409034191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Sep 91 p A10

[Interview with Emperor Akihito of Japan, scheduled to visit Thailand 26 September, by senior Thai journalists in Tokyo on 9 September—written answers formally released by Tokyo 23 September]

[Text] [Question] Why was Thailand chosen as the first stopover on your first visit to Southeast Asia as the emperor?

[Akihito] I am sure the government has given very close consideration to this visit. Japan and Thailand have a long history of good relations. A few years ago, when I was still crown Prince, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Wachiralongkon and I attended ceremonies in Tokyo marking the centennial of Japanese-Thai relations. I believe it is significant for both of our peoples that our two countries should build upon this relationship and cooperate in a wide range of areas. I will thus be most pleased if this visit contributes to better understanding and greater friendship between our two peoples. I am grateful to His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet for inviting me to Thailand.

[Question] What is Your Majesty's impression of Thailand in general? The two Royal Families have long enjoyed very close and cordial relations. Several members of both Royal Families have frequently exchanged visits. To what extent have these visits been beneficial to our bilateral relations?

[Akihito] The Empress and I had the pleasure of visiting Thailand before in 1964 when I was Crown Prince acting as proxy for the Emperor in returning Their Majesties King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Queen Sirikit's 1963 visit to Japan. Even today, I well remember the very warm welcome that Their Majesties the King and Queen, the government, and the people of Thailand accorded us. At the time, while I felt that Thailand has been influenced by Indian culture just as Japan was influenced by Chinese culture, I remember being impressed with how much we have in common and how much at home I felt.

Both our countries have strived for modernization since the 19th century as a means of preserving the country's independence. And it is impressive that the long reign of His Majesty King Chulalongkon of more than 40 years coincided very closely with that of the Emperior Meiji in Japan.

We saw Their Majesties the King and Queen whenever we stopped by in Thailand on our travels. And I am always very much impressed by their concern for their country and their desire for prosperity and well-being for their people.

It is important that the peoples of any two countries seeking to deepen and strengthen their friendly relations develop mutual trust through a wide range of personal contact. In this sense, I believe it is significant that our two royal families should be so close. And I would be most pleased if this could encourage closer relations between the Thai and Japanese peoples.

[Question] With Japan's current economic prosperity, which is bringing the country to world prominence as an economic giant, could Your Majesty describe the Imperial Family's role in modern Japan.

[Akihito] Under our Constitution, the Emperor does not have powers related to government but performs only such acts in matters of state as specified by the Constitution, and these only with the advice and approval of the Cabinet. At the same time, however, the Constitution also states that the Emperor is the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people. In this capacity, the Emperior assumes an important role and works to ensure that the country develops and the people become better off. For example, the Emperior attends the National Arbor Day Festival held in a different prefecture every year, the National Sports Festival, and the National Convention for the Development of an Abundantly Productive Sea, and the Crown prince attends the National Sports Games for the Disabled, in the hope of drawing interest to these events and their very worthy aims.

Japan has made considerable progress, thanks to the devoted efforts of the people. And I very much hope that this progress will contribute in turn to world peace and enchance well-being for all peoples everywhere.

[Question] Your Majesty's great interest in natural conservation is widely recognized as similar to His Majesty King Phumiphon's advocacy of various development projects for the environment. What is the highest priority of Your Majesty's concern on pollution and environmental problems? Japan is one of the world's most industrialized nations and also one of the largest producer of toxic wastes.

[Akihito] I believe the most serious of these pollution and environmental problems are those having a direct impact on human health. And while it is important that we quickly identify and resolve those issues that have such an adverse effect our health, the fact that these health effects only show up over the long term means that it is often difficult to identify them and to work out remedies before it is too late.

There was also a time when environmental problems were injurious to the people's health in Japan, but the combination of widespread concern about the environment and the development of new technologies enabling us to hold down the environmental impact has resulted in considerable improvement in the Japanese situation. Even so, there are some problems such as nitrogen oxide emissions that have gotten worse with the greater number of automobiles on the road. And it is imperative that we make an even greater effort to avoid damaging the environment. I hope that environmental assessments will be done and countermeasures formulated as soon as possible so that all people can work together and can enjoy and enchanced well-being in an improved environment.

As I am interested in living things in general, I am naturally very interested in natural conservation as a way of preserving species. I hope that the great diversity of natural life that you have in Thailand will continue to survive and thrive under Thai protection.

[Question] What is Your Majesty's view of Japan's future role in Southeast Asia?

[Akihito] I believe it is very important that the peoples of Southeast Asia and Japan be able to work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

U.S. Asia Troops Cut Not To Affect SDF

OW2409074891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0735 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Michio Watanabe, one of several Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) faction leaders eyeing the next prime ministership, said Tuesday Japan need not expand its military to offset possible reductions in U.S. Forces stationed in Asia.

But he suggested the relative weight of Japanese forces in the region may increase.

"If U.S. troops are decreased, Japan should not make a parallel reduction of its self-defense forces [SDF]," Watanabe, leader of the fourth-largest LDP faction, told a luncheon at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan.

He was responding to a question on Japan's response should the U.S. withdraw its troops from the Philippines following the rejection last week of a new bases lease agreement by the Philippine Senate.

Watanabe, a former finance minister, also called for continued vigilance toward the Soviet Union.

There have been dramatic changes in the Soviet Union, he said, and the reduction of tensions is welcome. "But whether we should be satisfied wholeheartedly, that's another question," he said.

Watanabe said it is necessary when considering support to ensure conversion of military factories to civilian production is permanent.

He avoided condescending remarks toward Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu that have become characteristic of comments in recent weeks by some of the premier's critics and rivals.

Watanabe suggested a description of Kaifu as a "relief pitcher," made earlier this month by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Watanabe's mentor, was not necessarily accurate.

Nakasone moved over in February to formally install Watanabe as head of the faction.

Kaifu might have been regarded as a relief pitcher if he had given up in the middle of his two-year term, but since he is staying to the end, he is a "fine pitcher," Watanabe said.

Whether he will stay around for another game is "another story," Watanabe added.

Kaifu's term as LDP president ends October 30. The post carries the prime ministership as long as the LDP maintains a majority in the House of Representatives.

Other LDP politicians who have expressed interest in the LDP presidency are former finance minister Kiichi Miyazawa, leader of the third-largest LDP faction, and Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, who took over as head of the second-largest faction after former foreign minister Shintaro Abe died in May.

Kaifu has not yet said whether he plans to seek a second term.

US Rules Out Major Troops Cutback in Japan

OW2409112091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1007 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Washington, Sept. 24 KYODO—The Pentagon has no plans to cut U.S. Marines forces in Japan beyond the levels set in the current round of military cutbacks in the Pacific, a senior U.S. Marine Corps official says.

Lt. Gen. Henry C. Stackpole, deputy marines chief of staff, unveiled the Pentagon policy in a recent interview with KYODO News Service.

Under plans announced by the Pentagon last year, Washington is committed to reduce its 49,000-strong armed force in Japan by 4,770 men, including 3,500 marines, by the end of next year.

This target is part of the first phase of the U.S. military cutback program for South Korea, Japan, and the Philippines.

The Pentagon has yet to announce concrete figures of further troop reduction plans under two additional phases which extend to the year 2000.

"As I understand it, there is no further marine reduction (in Japan) in the phase two or phase three plan," said Stackpole, who is in charge of plans, policies, and operations.

The reason, he said, is because the Marine Corps forms the principal forward deployment element in the U.S. global military strategy.

That forward deployment role also fell on the U.S. marines in Japan during the Persian Gulf War. Stackpole said 7,000 U.S. marines were sent from Japan to join the conflict.

He said that while the Soviet military threat has diminished, the world still faces problems of instability.

In addition to ethnic conflicts, Stackpole cited disruption of international commerce as a potential source of conflict in the future.

Stackpole discounted concerns over Japan's military role in Asia, saying he believes Japan has been a "responsible leader" in the region through its political and economic power.

Stackpole, who was the top U.S. marine commander in Japan before his current job, raised eyebrows in Japan in 1989 when he was quoted in a press report as saying he saw the role of U.S.-Japan security pact as "the cap in the bottle" on feared Japanese militarism.

He told KYODO he was quoted out of context.

He said the "the cap in the bottle" remark which he made in an interview with the WASHINGTON POST in March 1989 referred to Soviet expansionism in northeast Asia and not Japanese militarism.

"I have never been able to have anybody to correct that, so I have lived with a quote I did not say," he said.

Stackpole said his concern at the time was that the Soviet Union was moving its modern military equipment to northeast Asia while reducing its equipment in the Warsaw Pact.

"I see no fear of rising Japanese militarism," he said.

He observed that as Japan has political and economic power way out of proportion with the rest of Asia, "the Japanese must be a responsible leader in the area," but added, "they already are."

Stackpole paid tribute to the U.S. cost-sharing agreement with Japan on the stationing U.S. Armed Forces, describing it as "one of the finest arrangements" in the world.

The Japanese Government pays about half of the total cost for maintaining the U.S. military presence to the tune of of over 3 billion dollars a year.

US Says DPRK Nuclear Refusal Limits Ties

OW2409081091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0711 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost said Tuesday the United States will limit improvement of relations with North Korea unless Pyongyang allows inspection of its nuclear facilties by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He made the remark during a one-hour meeting with Social Democratic Party Chairman Makoto Tanabe at a Tokyo hotel, their first since Tanabe assumed leadership of Japan's No. 1 opposition party in July.

Armacost said Washington supports the simultaneous entry of North and South Korea to the United Nations as part of Washington's gesture to seek improved relations with communist countries.

Tanabe, in principle, agreed with Armacost's view on the nuclear facilities, saying North Korea should accept IAEA inspection from the standpoint of public freedom to seek information.

North Korea has insisted it will accept an agency inspection team only if U.S. nuclear weapons are withdrawn from South Korea. The United States neither confirms nor denies it has such weapons in the south.

Pyongyang signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1985, but has refused to allow inspection for the past six years.

On the Japan-U.S. security treaty, Armacost and Tanabe agreed, in principle, it should be maintained even if the Soviet Union no longer poses a threat to Japan and the Asia-Pacific region.

However, Tanabe said Tokyo and Washington should make "quantitative" changes to the treaty as the world has entered a new era following the end of the Cold War.

Soviet Visit Said 'Progressive Step' on Islands

OW2409040891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0339 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 (KYODO)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Tuesday that Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama's anticipated trip to Moscow would represent a progressive step in territorial talks with the Soviet Union.

Kaifu was commenting to reporters on Nakayama's talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin in New York. During the talks the two foreign ministers agreed Nakayama should visit Moscow at an "early date."

No specific date was set, however.

Pankin told Nakayama that the Soviet Union is anxious to settle its territorial dispute with Japan, officials said.

Soviets 'Eager' To Settle

OW2409004291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0006 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] New York, Sept. 23 (KYODO)—The Soviet Union is eager to settle its long-standing territorial dispute with Japan, Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin said here Monday.

In a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Pankin also said that there is no disagreement between the central government and the Russian Republic on the necessity for an early settlement of the issue, Japanese officials said.

The hourlong meeting at the U.N. headquarters was the first between the two foreign ministers since a botched communist coup in the Soviet Union last month.

Nakayama and Pankin, who were both in New York to attend a U.N. General Assembly session, agreed to set up another foreign ministerial meeting in Moscow, possibly in October, Japanese officials said.

Nakayama has said he wishes to visit the Soviet Union in October, but Japanese officials said the exact date of the trip was not decided due in part to Russian Republic leaders' uncertain schedules.

Nakayama's position as foreign minister is also uncertain following an expected reshuffle of the Japanese Cabinet in the wake of leadership elections in the governing party at the end of October.

Nakayama repeated Japan's stand that Tokyo wants to resolve the territorial dispute as early as possible, telling Pankin that a settlement is necessary before "a fundamental improvement" in bilateral relations is possible, Japanese officials said.

Nakayama said the territorial issue is an important part of a five-point principle within Japan's policy regarding the Soviet Union.

"We are also eager to promote a settlement of the territorial issue and the conclusion of a peace treaty" between Japan and the Soviet Union, Pankin was quoted as telling Nakayama.

Pankin also indicated that the Kremlin has no quarrel with a proposal put forward recently by Russian President Boris Yeltsin suggesting that the territorial dispute be resolved in five stages, Japanese officials said.

The decades-long dispute over the northern territories—a group of islands off northeastern Hokkaido which the Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II—has prevented the two countries from concluding a peace treaty.

Japan has cited the territorial dispute as a major hurdle standing in the way of Japanese aid to prop up the ailing Soviet economy.

Territorial dispute aside, Nakayama said Japan will support the Soviet drive toward democratization and its transition to a market economy and he made it clear that any such aid will be in the form of humanitarian and technical assistance.

Japan will provide technical advice and expertise on macroeconomic and fiscal matters, and on ways to remove bottlenecks in the Soviet market distribution system, Nakayama said. He added that Japan will also aid the Soviets as they convert their defense industry to civilian production.

Nakayama also promised to step up humanitarian aid to the Soviet Union.

Pankin urged the west to bolster food and other humanitarian assistance to help the Soviet Union cope with shortages in the coming winter, Japanese officials said.

5 Principles of Foreign Policy Toward Soviets

OW2409064991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0555 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] New York, Sept. 23 (KYODO)—The following are five principles regarding Japan's foreign policy toward the Soviet Union laid down Monday by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama during a meeting with his Soviet counterpart Boris Pankin in New York.

—Japan will step up aid for Soviet reform.
—Japan will strengthen cooperation with the Russian Federation.
—Japan will assist the Soviet Union in its efforts to be accepted as a constructive partner in the Asia/Pacific region.
—Japan will support the Soviet Union's campaign to integrate itself with the global economic system via special status in the international monetary fund and the World Bank.
—Japan will seek an early resolution to its territorial dispute with the Soviets in order to conclude a peace treaty.

US, Japan Agree on Need for Aid to Soviets

OW2409043591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0311 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] New York, Sept. 23 (KYODO)—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker agreed on Monday that the two countries should step up humanitarian and technical aid to the Soviet Union, a Japanese official said.

The two leaders conferred on the Soviet aid policy, with Baker stressing the importance of increasing western aid to help keep Soviet reformists in power, the official said.

Japanese officials said Nakayama and Baker agreed on the necessity to strengthen humanitarian and technical aid to the Soviet Union but made no reference to financial assistance.

Baker also urged Japan to settle its long-standing territorial dispute with the Soviet Union over a group of Soviet-occupied islands off northern Japan.

Baker said he talked with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the territorial issue during his recent trip to the Soviet Union and came away with the impression that Moscow is eager "to make progress" on the issue.

Japanese officials said Nakayama and Baker discussed Malaysia's proposal to set up an East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG), with Baker expressing concern about the character of the proposed regional trade group.

Nakayama told Baker that Japan shares U.S. concerns about the proposal, Japanese officials said.

Nakayama and Baker, who were in New York to attend the annual U.N. General Assembly session, also discussed a wide range of bilateral issues ranging from President George Bush's upcoming visit to Japan and drift-net fishing in the Pacific Ocean, a Japanese official said.

Baker said the U.S. Administration plans to send an advance team to Tokyo in mid-October to prepare for Bush's visit scheduled for late November. He promised to tackle pending bilateral issues in a "forward-looking stance," the official added.

Baker also said he hopes a Japan-U.S. "two-plus-two" meeting involving the countries' foreign and defense ministers will take place as soon as possible, and he noted that U.S.-Japanese security ties are "very, very important" to the U.S.

The "two-plus-two" meeting has been put off by U.S. officials who say they want a specific agenda before such a high-level session takes place.

On the U.S. ban on drift-net fishing, officials said, Baker and Nakayama agreed to discuss the issue through industry experts.

Nakayama said a ban on drift-net fishing, which environmentalists say kills excess marine life, has become a matter of deep concern among Japanese fishermen who operate nearly 600 drift-net fishing vessels.

G-7 Meeting on Soviet Affairs Data Urged

OW2409075891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0616 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said on Tuesday that leading industrial nations should make an early move toward exchanging information on Soviet affairs.

The Group of Seven (G-7) industrial countries should devise ways to exchange information on the Soviet Union before the G-7 meeting to be held prior to the annual conferences of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in October, Hashimoto said at a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting .

"I have no objections to holding a G-7 meeting if other G-7 members call for such a get-together," the minister said, but added there are options other than a G-7 meeting for the purpose of exchanging information and views on Soviet problems.

Hashimoto also said the current restrictions on bank lending to real estate businesses is also hampering financing of projects that are important for the Japanese economy.

The Finance Ministry in April 1990 imposed the restrictions on bank loans to real estate businesses as an emergency step to put a cap on soaring land prices.

"I have heard there are some cases in which banks use the lending curb as an excuse for not extending loans to useful projects," Hashimoto said.

The ministry has started urging banks not to restrict lending to beneficial businesses, he said.

Meeting Seen Unlikely

OW2409115491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1052 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—A senior Finance Ministry [MOF] official Tuesday ruled out an emergency meeting on the Soviet economy by finance officials from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations ahead of their scheduled get-together in Bangkok in mid-October.

"It is necessary to exchange information but I don't think the G- 7 nations will meet (before the Bangkok gathering)," the official, who requested anonymity, said.

The British INDEPENDENT newspaper reported over the weekend that the U.S. had pressed for a special G-7 session in order to discuss the current wobbly state of the Soviet economy.

The official's comments seemed to contradict remarks made by Finance Minister Ryutato Hashimoto earlier in the day.

Hashimoto told a regularly scheduled press conference that the G-7 countries should discuss Soviet affairs before their meeting to be held around October 12 prior to the annual conference of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

PRC, ROK Concerned Over PKO Role

OW2409011991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0026 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] New York, Sept. 23 (KYODO)—China and South Korea on Monday expressed concern about Japan's plan to allow its military forces to be involved in U.N.-sponsored peacekeeping operations [PKO], Japanese officials said.

China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok each said they expressed their concerns during separate meetings with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama.

Apparently trying to allay the fears of Japan's two closest neighbors, Nakayama brought up Japanese plans to allow its military, the Self-Defense Forces (SDF), to take part in future U.N. peacekeeping missions.

Both Qian and Yi cited Japan's aggression in the earlier part of this century as the source of their concerns about Japan's future military intentions.

While noting that Japan is entitled to play an "appropriate part" in international peacekeeping, Yi said South Korea is worried about the Japanese military role because of the "unfortunate history" between the two countries. Korea was under Japanese colonial rule between 1911 and 1945.

Yi gave a vague "I understand" response when Nakayama told him that "there is no ground" for South Korea's apprehension, according to a Japanese official who briefed reporters on the meeting.

Qian told Nakayama in a later meeting that he hopes the dispatch of Japan's military for overseas missions "would not remind its neighbors of the past," another Japanese official said.

In meetings with both Qian and Yi, Nakayama repeated Tokyo's assurance that Japan would use the SDF only in U.N.-sanctioned peacekeeping operations and on the condition that the Japanese presence is accepted by the parties concerned, Japanese officials said.

On other topics, the South Korean foreign minister expressed Seoul's appreciation of Japan's "prudence" in talks with North Korea regarding normalized bilateral diplomatic relations, Japanese officials said.

Yi cited in particular Japan's pressure on Pyongyang to open North Korea's nuclear program to international inspection.

Nakayama assured Yi that Japan's efforts to normalize ties with North Korea would not affect Japan's traditional friendship with South Korea.

Japan will also continue its efforts to promote peace and stability in the Korean peninsula, Nakayama said.

All Nippon Airways Seeks Flight to North Korea

OW2409095591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—All Nippon Airways Co. (ANA) said Tuesday it has applied to the Transport Ministry for permission to operate a single commercial charter flight between Japan and North Korea.

If approved, ANA would be the first Japanese airline to conduct such a service, company officials said.

According to the carrier's application, the commercial charter service would depart from Niigata on October 23 for Pyongyang and return October 26.

Japan Travel Bureau Inc. will be in charge of organizing the three-day sightseeing trip of Pyongyang, the officials said.

Government Expresses Optimism on Economy

OW2409044291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0345 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—The Japanese economy is now enjoying a record postwar expansion, growing uninterupted for 58 months through September, despite undergoing "a mild slowdown," the government said Tuesday.

The Economic Planning Agency (EPA) reported that the economy remains on an expansionary avenue, outdoing the record 57-month "izanagi" boom from November 1965 to June 1970.

An EPA official said the agency has not changed its earlier view that the economy will keep growing for the rest of the current fiscal year ending on March 31, 1992.

The agency's optimism stands in stark contrast with many private-sector economists who agree that the economy is not so strong as the government believes and that a further cut in interest rates is vital to keep it afloat for the months to come.

Their alarming calls intensified after the government announced last week that the economy grew by an anemic 0.5 percent in the second quarter from the previous three months, or an annualized 2.0 percent.

The second-quarter growth is far below the 11.0 percent annual expansion recorded in the first quarter.

But the agency itself admitted in its monthly economic report released Tuesday that the economy is undergoing "a mild slowdown," for the first such recognition since the current expansion started in December 1986. "The economy is shifting to a stable expansion from a rather rapid growth so far," the EPA official said.

According to the EPA report, the present economic boom, dubbed the "Heisei boom" after the present era of the imperial calendar, is underpinned by steady personal consumption and slowing, but still high levels of corporate spending.

The official, however, acknowledged there is a gaping "discrepancy" among major components of domestic demand, with the housing sector, buffeted by high interest rates, working against the growth supported by the firm personal and corporate spending.

"Domestic demand is growing now at a cruising speed," he said.

The official also said companies in across-the-board sectors are now suffering lower profits, and business failures, at 749 in August, are "a bit too many for an economy in an expansionary phase."

The official also noted that the downscaling in corporate spending on plant and equipment, the recent cutbacks in auto output, and reduced housing construction should affect production in related industries, putting a potential damper on the economy.

Planning Agency Says Serious Recession Unlikely

OW2409055691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0332 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—The Japanese economy is unlikely to slip into a serious recession, the director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Tuesday.

Michio Ochi said both optimists and pessimists agree that even if Japan experiences a recession, it will be short and mild.

He was commenting on criticism from some ruling Liberal Democratic Party officials who said the EPA's economic forecasts are too optimistic.

Ochi said his view emerged from three meetings on the subject that he held with private-sector economists.

The Japanese economy is still on an expansionary track, Ochi said, despite an EPA monthly report published Tuesday that admitted it was undergoing "a mild slowdown."

He said despite "changes made in phraseology" the EPA has not changed its view about Japan's economic performance.

Statistics on Securities Firms Compensations

OW2409094391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0836 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Japan's "Big Four" brokerages, defying a Finance Ministry directive, continued to compensate favored clients for investment losses in fiscal 1990, prompting the ministry to suspend them from underwriting national bonds for one month.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told a special investigative committee of the House of Representatives the four securities companies reimbursed a total of 43.5 billion yen in loss compensation for their clients in the year ended March 31, 1991.

Hashimoto said no kickbacks by the four companies have been detected in the current fiscal year.

However, he said the brokerages made no promise of interest payments in advance, a violation of the Securities and Exchange Law.

The law has no provision barring securities firms from paying loss compensation to clients.

Nomura Securities Co., the world's leading brokerage, reimbursed 435 million yen in six cases of payouts, followed by Daiwa Securities Co. with 3.275 billion yen in 20 cases, Nikko Securities Co. with 23.475 billion yen in 38 cases, and Yamaichi Securities Co. with 16.367 billion yen in 14 cases, Hashimoto said.

The payouts were in violation of a ministry directive issued in December 1989, which banned such reimbursements by brokerage houses.

The Big Four and other securities companies disclosed earlier this year they reimbursed a total of 128.3 billion yen for investment losses between October 1987 and March 1990, rocking Japan's financial market.

Securities industry sources said the amount of kickbacks reported by Hashimoto was based on figures calculated on the ministry's own standards defining loss compensation in its inspections of account books submitted by the Big Four brokerages.

There has so far been no clear-cut definition of loss compensation commonly accepted by the government and the securities industry.

The Japan Securities Dealers Association is currently working out voluntary rules defining loss compensation.

Hashimoto also told the lower house ad hoc committee it is difficult to determine whether the massive trading in shares of Tokyu Corp. by Nomura is a violation of the law banning stock manipulation.

Nomura has denied it manipulated the Tokyu stock price, which soared to a record high in the summer of 1988.

The case involved the cornering of Tokyu shares by the late boss of a powerful underground crime syndicate to whom Nomura and Nikko admitted giving massive loans.

The two companies have been barred by the World Bank for their links to the mobster group, known as the Inagawa-kai.

Business Leaders Express Regret

OW2409130391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Business leaders expressed regret Tuesday over disclosures by the Finance Ministry that Japan's "Big Four" brokerage houses continued compensating favored clients for investment losses despite the ministry's directive to the contrary.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told the House of Representatives investigative committee that four major brokerage houses—Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko, and Yamaichi—reimbursed clients to the tune of 43.5 billion yen in fiscal 1990.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the powerful federation of economic organizations, said "it is extremely regrettable" that the Big Four companies ignored the directive issued in December 1989.

"There is no excuse," said Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Association.

Hiraiwa said all facts have to be brought to light so that those in positions of authority responsible people correct the traditional practice.

Nagano blamed both the Finance Ministry and management of the four brokerages for failure to stop the questionable payments.

He expressed hope that a recurrence of such scandals could be prevented through revision of the Securities and Exchange Law.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives and Chairman of Nissho Iwai Corp., said he hopes reform will be carried out in line with the government's ad hoc commission on administrative reform.

Hayami's comment was in response to news that his trading company was once again included in the latest list of compensation recipients.

Mongolia

Ochirbat Receives Hungarian Delegation

LD2209050691 Budapest MTI in English 1812 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, September 21 (MTI)—President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat of the Republic of Mongolia met on Saturday the Hungarian parliamentary delegation, which arrived in Mongolia on Friday at the invitation of the Mongolian National Assembly. The delegation is headed by Matyas Szuros, deputy speaker of parliament.

In the meeting, the Mongolian head of state emphasized the importance of deepening and expanding the traditional Mongolian- Hungarian relations.

On Saturday, the delegation held talks with Zh. Choinhor, first deputy foreign minister.

North Korea

Unity Group Statement Supports UN Entry

SK2309155091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1524 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—Yom Taechun, presidium member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, issued a statement to the press today regarding the decision on the DPRK's admission into the United Nations.

By joining the U.N. our Republic has become able to develop friendly and cooperative relations with many more countries of the world on the principles of independence, peace and reciprocity and more widely participate in and make a great contribution to international activities for the accomplishment of the common cause of mankind, he said, and went on:

Invariable is our people's will to reunify the divided country and nation into one although our Republic has joined the U.N.

Our people will make strenuous efforts to bring earlier the day when a reunified Korea will take a single seat in the U.N.

We will never allow any attempts to freeze the division of the country and nation and create "two Koreas" on the pretext of the admission of the North and the South into the U.N.

The most reasonable and realistic way of reunifying our country is to establish a confederacy on the basis of one nation, one state, two systems and two governments as already clarified by the government of our Republic. This proposal conforms to the mission and goal of the U.N. to defend peace and security.

I express the expectation that all the member nations of the United Nations will support our fair and aboveboard proposal for reunification through a confederacy and sincerely help our people in their efforts to carry it into effect.

Official Says UN Entry Opportunity for Peace

OW2109102491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1011 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 21 (KYODO)—North and South Korea's simultaneous entry to the United Nations provides the opportunity to end hostilities between them and to forge a joint Korean community, a senior North Korean official said here Saturday.

Chon Kum-chol, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, told KYODO News Service that U.N. membership has erased North Korea's "warlike" image and portrayed it as a "peace-loving nation."

He also said the membership has paved the way for the signing of a nonaggression declaration between the two Koreas and withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea.

Chon is visiting Japan to attend a meeting discussing reunification.

He said that prime ministers of both Koreas are likely to agree on signing the declaration at their fourth round of talks scheduled next month in Pyongyang, or later.

The declaration is one of the conditions for summit talks between Presidents Kim Il-song of the North and No Tae-u of the South, he said.

He also reiterated Pyongyang's demand for the release of dissidents jailed for making unauthorized visits to Pyongyang, and for a halt to annual joint military exercises by the United States and South Korea.

Chon also said North Korea will not comply with inspection standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) unless the United States removes nuclear weapons from South Korea.

Broadcasting Officials Comment on UN Admission

SK2109141191 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0252 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Recorded comments on the DPRK's UN entry by Yi Pong-hui, vice chairman of the Korean Central Broadcasting Committee, and Yi Sang-su, deputy director of the same committee]

[Text] [Yi Sang-su] Radio and television have reported on our country's admission into the United Nations. We would like to hear about our country's admission into the United Nations from the vice chairman, who has (?witnessed) the process with his own eyes.

[Yi Pong-hui] All right. The fact that our country was admitted into the United Nations by a unanimous vote is an expression of the unanimous and ardent desire of the UN member states to develop close cooperation with our Republic in carrying out the common cause of mankind.

As is known, independence, friendship, and peace are the ideals that our Republic's government has consistently maintained in its foreign policy. Proceeding from this, since the day it was founded, our Republic's government has been making effort to strengthen friendly ties with the world's peace-loving people under the banner of independence, friendship, and peace.

Our Republic's foreign policy ideals—independence, friendship, and peace—reflect the current global trends correctly. They have become the universal values in developing international relations.

I believe that our country's admission into the United Nations by a unanimous vote is associated with the authority our Republic enjoys in the international community, as well as with its dignity.

[Yi Sang-su] I am convinced that as a UN member, our Republic will expand and develop relations of friendship and cooperation with many countries in the future, under the ideals of independence, friendship, and peace. I also hope that our Republic will make still greater contributions to favorable conditions for world peace and security.

As is known, a desire and aspirations for the creation of a new, free, and peaceful world are growing stronger than ever among the world's people.

Our Republic's admission into the United Nations is an event corresponding to the trends of the times as such.

[Yi Pong-hui] To turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone and to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea is not only the unanimous desire of all the Korean people in the North, South, and abroad, but is also a common aspirations of the world and mankind.

Under the present circumstances, it is the historic mission of the United Nations to solve such an unsolved global issue.

For this reason, our country will make positive effort to solve such issues that await solutions, not to mention that it will make contributions, as a matter of course.

[Yi Sang-su] In fact, one important reason why our Republic has taken the measure of seeking UN membership is to create an international environment favorable to ending national division and to achieving Korea's national reunification.

Those who are against Korea's reunification are now strengthening their maneuvers to make national division lawful by using the recent admission into the United Nations as an international leverage more than ever.

Under circumstances like this, if we are to turn the United Nations into a stage favorable to peace on the Korean peninsula and to its reunification, it is desirable to conduct positive external activities in solidarity with the world's people aspiring for independence, friendship, and peace by becoming a UN member.

Viewed in this light, I believe that the measure of seeking our country's admission into the United Nations was very just.

[Yi Sang-su] Thank you for your detailed explanation about the admission of our Republic's government into the United Nations.

U.S. To Deliver Reconnaissance Planes to South

SK2409042591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0404 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 24 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists recently decided to deliver P-3C search and reconnaissance planes to the South Korean puppet navy, according to a report from Washington on September 21.

The contract sum for the purchase of the planes, manufactured by Lockheed, a U.S. munitions monopoly, is reportedly set at 810 million dollars.

Earlier this year, the U.S. imperialists decided to transfer 120 jet fighter planes to the South Korean puppets.

Facts clearly show that the U.S. imperialists who are loudmouthed about "peace" and "disarmament" are hastening preparations for another war of aggression against the northern half of korea, increasing the tensions on the Korean peninsula by delivering more new-type military equipment to the South Korean puppets.

U.S. Said Conducting Aerial Electronic Jamming

SK2109051091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 21 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Air Force Command September 19 sent "EA-6" electronic jamming plane from Japan proper to the sky above South Korea for electronic jamming in the operational zone, according to military sources.

Formations of fighter-bombers and assault planes of the U.S. 7th Air Force stationed in South Korea and the South Korean puppet air force in the electronic jamming area staged a surprise attack exercise against the major targets in the strategic depth of the northern half of Korea.

The exercise was aimed at examining the mobility and war capability of Pacific-based electronic jamming planes and increasing the surprise attack capacity of formations of fighter- bombers and assault planes electronic jamming "in case of emergency", which brings to light the vicious design of the U.S. imperialists to invade the North.

Some 100 fighter-bombers, assault planes, observation planes and reconnaissance planes were mobilized in this exercise.

On September 18 and 19 the U.S. Pacific Navy Command swiftly deployed formations of Pacific-based "A-6" assault planes at the U.S. Air Force base in South Korea to stage in the skies above Yoju and Sangju surprise attack exercises at targets similar to those of the Northern half of the country.

Several dozen assault planes, fighter bombers and observation planes were mobilized in the aerial war games.

Kim Il-song Receives PRC Mining Delegation

SK2109111291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 21 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received a delegation of the General Company of Nonferrous Metal Industry of China headed by its deputy director general Wu Jianchang, on a visit to Korea.

Present on the occasion were Minister of Mining Industry Kim Pil-hwan, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Cha Pong-chu, and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi.

President Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The head of the delegation presented a gift to President Kim Il- song.

President Kim Il-song gave a luncheon for the guests.

Group Sends Gift to Kim Chong-il

SK2109111991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 21 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the head of a delegation of the General Company of Nonferrous Metal Industry of China on a visit to our country.

The gift was handed to an official concerned by the head of the delegation Wu Jianchang, deputy director general of the company.

Vice Premier Meets PRC Journalist Delegation

SK2309110391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—Vice-premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol today met and had a friendly talk here with the delegation of the All-China Journalists Association led by He Guole, deputy editor-in-chief of the LIBERATION ARMY DAILY.

Saying the blood-sealed Sino-Korean friendship will consolidate and develop still further, the head of the delegation sincerely wished the Korean people greater success in socialist construction in the future under the wise guidance of their great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

During its stay the delegation visited Mangyongdae and toured Pyongyang and local areas. It also went and saw the concrete wall built by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line.

Yi Chong-ok Meets PRC Cultural Delegation

SK2109112491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 21 (KCNA)—Vice-President Yi Chong-ok met and had a friendly conversation with the Chinese Government cultural delegation led by acting Minister of Culture He Jingzhi at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Kim Chong-ho, vice-minister of culture and art, was on hand.

The head of the delegation asked vice-president to convey greetings of Comrades Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, Yang Shangkun and Li Peng to the great leader President Kim Il-song.

He said during his stay he was deeply impressed by the great achievements made by the Korean people in socialist construction, in the field of culture and art in particular, under the wise guidance of President Kim Il-song and Comrade Secretary Kim Chong- il.

While witnessing excellent successes of the Korean comrades in socialist construction, we have hardened confidence in socialism, he said.

I am happy to feel a sentiment of traditional friendship and solidarity between our two parties and two peoples, he said, adding: Good relations of friendship has been established in cultural and art field, too, as in other fields.

Han Pong-ku Appointed New Ambassador to Bahamas

SK2409110591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 24 (KCNA)—Han Pong-ku was appointed DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas according to a decree of the Central People's Committee of the DPRK.

Kim Yong-sun Meets Japanese Party Member

SK2309050291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Sunday met and had a friendly conversation with Hajime Fukada, central executive member and director of the organisational department of the Japan Social-Democratic Party and member of the House of Councillors.

Visiting Koreans From Japan Leave for Homeland

SK2309112991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—The congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan for celebrating the 43rd founding anniversary of the DPRK headed by Yi Mal-sang, vice-chairman of the central standing committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), left here today.

It was seen off at the airport by Yun Ki-pok and other officials concerned.

South Soldier Gives Reasons for Defection

SK2309113991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—Cho Tae-hum, 21, a private second-class of the second company, first battalion, regiment 51, the twelfth division of the South Korean "ROK Army" who came over to the Northern half of Korea on July 16, was interviewed by home and foreign reporters at Pyongyang Koryo Hotel today.

His birthplace is Chongdo County, North Kyongsang Province, and his parents and two brothers live in Seoul now.

They moved to Seoul in 1988. Unable to find a job, he worked at Yuhwa Industrial Co. in Puchon, Kyonggi Province, before being drafted into the "Rok Army" in early April.

He said all manner of maltreatment and humiliation he suffered at the "ROK Army" was the decisive motive of his coming over to the North. He said he got a knowledge through the North's radio broadcasting that the North is a society good for the masses to live in, and he came over to the North, a people-centred society, to live a life worthy of human being.

He fully laid bare the violations on human rights within the "ROK Army."

He said:

The "ROK Army" cannot maintain itself without physical torture and beating. Torture and beating have become a daily routine.

I had been subjected to beastly humiliation, beaten scores of times every day for no reason.

When anyone dares to protest unbearable violation of human rights even once, he is dragged along to the Army Disciplinary Education Corps to be rolled over on smashed glass pieces or get his head dipped in a pool of water full of dirt.

No Tae-u and military brasshats are forcing ruthless fascist discipline to use the "ROK Army" as the lookout for the maintenance of the dictatorial rule. That is why the "ROK Army" soldiers condemn service in the "ROK Army" as a life in a prison without bars.

Referring to the miserable reality of medical service in the South Korean countryside, he said he had heard about the spread of cholera in South Korea before his defection. Although more than a thousand families live in the myon [township] where he had lived there is not a single doctor, and although 80 percent of the peasants are suffering from more than one kind of diseases, they are dying without medical assistance, he added.

He cited facts he had experienced to expose the war preparations of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling group against the North.

The political training officer of the division I belonged to preached No Tae-u's formula of "South Korea-sponsored reunification of systems" and "reunification by absorption," blaring that soldiers must do their utmost to increase their combat capabilities, he said, and went on:

The puppet army soldiers are forced to sing a song "the last five minutes" which means they should fight even their last five minutes against the North.

In concluding he said:

I will study hard with the pride and honour of having come over to the fold of the great General Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il and thus contribute what little I can to the prosperity and reunification of the country. This is my future ideal and determination.

Unity Group Says South Blocks Student Contacts

SK2309153091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—The secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] in the Information No. 600 dated September 22 charged that this year, too, the South Korean authorities are blocking independent contact and dialogue of students and people of all strata in the North and the South and intensifying the suppression of the patriotic figures who participated in reunification debate with us and overseas compatriots.

The Secretariat of the CPRF recalled that while talking about "exchange" and "travel" the South Korean authorities stopped Hong Kon-su, a reverend of Seoul Hyangnin Church, from participating as the head of a South side's delegation in the talks of specialists in the reunification question and Christians from the North and South and abroad, which was held in Frankfurt, Germany, from the end of January to early February, blocked the North side's delegation and delegates overseas compatriots that were going to pass through Panmunjom to Seoul to attend the Seoul Pan-National Rally slated for August 13 and the August 15 Grand Reunification Festival of Students, and frustrated the September 17 working- level talks of students from the North and the South to discuss the question of the participation of students of the Northern half of Korea in the "'91 Yonsei-Korea University National Liberation Festival", and that they barred South Korean nongovernment organisations and individual figures from meeting and having reunification debate with us.

Noting that on March 20 the South Korean ruling quarters refused to convey the letters to the co-chairman of the "Korean General Federation of National Artistes", the chairman of the "National Teachers Union", the chairwomen of the "Federation of Women's Organisations" and the "Korean National Council of Women" (KNCW) in South Korea from the chairmen of the C.C. [Central Committee], the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea and the Korean Trade Union of Educational and Cultural Workers and the secretary of the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union, the secretariat said that the South Korean ruling quarters have gone the length of refusing to convey the letters for dialogue and contact between the public and nongovernmental organisations in the north and south to the South Korean counterparts.

On June 6 the No Tae-u military fascist clique put in jail again the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan in his seventies who had visited the Northern half of the country, and on May 13 inflicted prison terms upon delegates Cho Yong-sol, Yi Hae-hak and Cho Song-u who had participated in the tripartite working-level talks held in Berlin last year, while suppressing the patriotic figures who met and discussed the reunification question with us and overseas compatriots, the CPRF secretariat said, and stressed:

All this proves that though the No group is paying lip-services to "exchange," "dialogue" and "unification", it is, in actuality, seeking North-South confrontation and permanent division, and its "unified channel of dialogue" is a wicked criminal design to block contact and reunification debate of patriotic pro-reunification forces.

The South Korean ruling quarters should draw a serious lesson from the miserable end of the predecessors who blocked the reunification of the country and immediately stop the moves for "unified channel of dialogue" obstructive to hastening reunification and should not block the way of independent contact and reunification dialogue of all political parties, all groupings and public figures and people from all walks of life in South Korea.

Student Group on South's Treatment of Chondaehyop

SK2109233591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1523 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 21 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u ruling group must give up at once crackdown upon the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) and release the illegally arrested patriotic students unconditionally and immediately, stressed a spokesman of the Korean Student Committee (KSC) in a statement on September 21.

Recalling that the puppet Security Planning Board has committed fascist outrage of arresting four hard core members of Chondaehyop including members of its policy committee and putting on the want list 90 members of Chondaehyop, the statement said:

The No military fascist clique's attempt to detain and punish core members of Chondaehyop, putting an unbecoming label on them and Chondaehyop is nothing but a criminal plot to do away with them to bridge over their serious ruling crisis.

The South Korean authorities have systematically arrested patriotic students including successive chairmen of Chondaehyop Im Chong-sok, Song Kap-sok and Kim Chong-sik, and intensified fascist supression of Chondaehyop by branding it as a "leftist pro- communist force", a "force to overthrow the system" manipulated by someone.

The wretched plight of South Korea where human rights and civil rights are violated and even life is lost under the unheard-of fascist "security-oriented rule" clearly shows that the present "Sixth Republic regime" is a repressive regime and a murderous regime unparallelled in the world.

However wild the No fascist clique may run in fascist suppression, it can not arrest the just struggle of South Korean students for independence, democracy and reunification nor stamp out Chondaehyop, steel-like rank of national salvation.

The No Tae-u fascist clique must not recklessly act, mindful that indiscreet reckless bayonet-brandishing against justice and patriotism is not an almighty means of prolonging its remaining days but a road of precipitating self-destruction.

Groups Issue Statement on Fatal Shooting in South

SK2109155191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1516 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 21 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea and the Korean Student Committee in a joint statement today vehemently condemned the South Korean military fascist group's fatal shooting of Han Kuk-won, a postgraduate of Seoul National University, in the name of the entire youth and students in the northern half of Korea, branding it as a never-to-be-condoned, sanguinary murder and a high-handed strangulation of human rights and democracy.

The statement said:

In an attempt to cover up the truth behind the murder case and shirk their responsibility for it at any cost, the South Korean puppets are now patronizing the murderers by spelling out an impudent sophism that it was not a direct shooting and postgraduate Han Kuk-won was hit by a falling bullet which was shot by intimidation.

The brutal murder of postgraduate Han Kuk-won is not an accidental case by individual policemen but an inevitable product of the inhuman and atrocious "security-oriented rule" of the present "Sixth Republic" whose job is to suppress and slaughter people.

From the first days he came to power with unprecedented violence, irregularities and swindles, the traitor No Tae-u, rare murderer who plunged Kwangju into a sea of blood, has unhesitatingly committed the fascist outrages of arresting, detaining, torturing and killing patriotic youth, students and people at random.

The indiscriminate suppression by the No group trying to find a way out of its political crisis in bayonet suppression has reached a high pitch.

Under such murderous "security-oriented rule", yesterday students Kang Kyong-tae and Kim Kwi-chong were beaten to death by iron bars and group violence and scores of hot-blooded youth were driven to self-immolation and today postgraduate Han Kuk-won was hit by a bullet and fell down, shedding blood.

This miserable situation shows what stage the ferocity and brutality of the "Sixth Republic regime" has reached.

The South Korean fascist clique's cold-blooded slaughter is the last-ditch efforts of the doomed, which only precipitates its own destruction.

The No Tae-u military dictatorship which indiscriminately punishes and kills South Korean students and people will never last long in safety.

Daily Says No Tae-u Guilty of 'Terror Politics'

SK2109060891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0515 21 Sep 91

["Intelligence Politics Must Be Terminated"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang September 21 (KCNA)—A labor-related "blacklist" was found in Kumho Co. in Pusan, South Korea, on September 16.

The 8-point data include the names and addresses of some 8,000 dismissed workers, political offenders and activist students and their residential registration numbers and post scripts.

This "blacklist" reveals again the seamy side of the anti-democratic and anti-popular intelligence and terror politics of the No Tae-u ruling group, NODONG SINMUN says in a commentary today.

The news analyst goes on:

After establishing a murderous rule called "security-oriented rule," the No Tae-u ruling group is resorting to heinous pursuit and surveillance by secret intelligence tools as well as undisguised crackdown by fascist repressive forces.

They have covered the whole of South Korea with networks of strict watch and chase and are ruthlessly suppressing people's freedom of political activity. This is the true feature of their much-vaunted "extension of human rights."

The "Sixth Republic regime" of the No Tae-u ruling group is the most tyrannical military fascist dictatorial "regime" which cannot exist even a day without bayonet suppression of people and intelligence and terror politics.

Such a "regime" which is engaged in fascist crackdown on people and intelligence surveillance must be liquidated.

Party Leaders Attend Wreathlaying Ceremonies

SK2209091091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0821 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 22 (KCNA)—Senior officials of the party and government, working people and soldiers of the People's Army laid wreaths in the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt. Taesong and the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery on September 22, day of mid-autumn festival.

Wreaths sent by the great leader President Kim Il-song were on the wreath stands of the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt. Taesong and the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery.

Also lying there were wreaths sent by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Guards of honor of the Korean People's Army [KPA] lined up in the cemeteries.

Present at the wreath-laying in the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery were Yon Hyong-muk, Choe Kwang, Kye Ung-tae, Choe Tae-pok, Hong Song-nam, Kang Hui-won, Kim Chung-nin, Hwang Chang-yop, Kim Yun-hyok, Kim Tal-hyon, Yang Hyong-sop, and other senior officials of the party and power bodies, administraion and economic organs, working people's organisations and central organs, anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, generals of the KPA, leading men of science, education, culture and art, public health and the press, working people in the city and soldiers of the People's Army.

To the strains of the wreath-laying music wreaths were laid in the name of the Central Committee of the Workers' party of Korea, the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Among the people who laid wreaths in the patriotic martyrs cemetery were Pak Song-chol, Hong Si-hak, Yun Ki-pok, Chang Chol, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party Chong Sin-hyok and others.

Daily Views Spirit of National Independence

SK2309050091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 23 Sep 91

["NODONG SINMUN on Importance of Spirit of National Independence"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Sunday came out with an article headlined "Enhancing Spirit of National Independence Is Important Requirement in Carrying on Revolution and Construction Our Own Way".

Underlining the importance of this spirit in the revolution and construction, the author of the article says:

The spirit of national independence is a spirit of living by one's own efforts to suit the will and demand of one's nation. It is an ideological factor of the solution of all problems in our own way.

By resolving all problems arising in the revolution and construction by their own efforts in accordance with their faith and judgement through the full display of the spirit of national independence under the banner of the chuche idea, our people have built peculiar socialism of our style and given full scope to its advantages and are successfully hewing the path of the victory of the revolution.

Noting that the spirit of national independence, first of all, makes people think and act in their own spirit, the article says:

A nation which cherishes and highly displays the spirit of national independence always lives independently with its own view and firm and unshakable faith as the master.

The noble virtues of our people who live in its own spirit, not reading others' faces or depending on others, owe their origin to the spirit of national independence.

A nation lacking the spirit of national independence cannot resolve on an independent stand any problem arising in the revolution and construction, and when it induces ready-made theories or other's experiences and technology, it swallows them in a lump, failing to successfully carry on the revolution and construction.

Our party is conducting the revolution and construction our own way by resolving all problems in conformity with the specific circumstances and conditions of our revolution and the desire and demand of our people, adopting it as its supreme principle to defend and realise the interests of our revolution and people.

Noting that the spirit of national independence is the ideological and spiritual sources in resolving all problems arising in the revolution and construction by its own efforts, the article continues:

Our people armed with the spirit of national independence, united with a single heart, are able to successfully resolve all problems arising in the revolution and construction by firmly building up the independent driving force of the revolution, the subject of the nation, and giving full play to the revolutinary spirit of self- reliance.

Under the wise leadership of the great party and leader, our people have in the past period made enormous achievements in the revolution and construction by resolving all problems by their own efforts through the full display of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, not depending on others.

Progress in Railway Electrification Viewed

SK2309153291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is directing big efforts to the electrification of railways.

Projects of Pyongsan-Kaesong and Kaechon-Sunchon railway etectrification have begun.

When these railways are electrified, transport capacity will be expanded to greatly contribute to the development of the national economy and the improvement of people's living and to further perfect the unified transport system by electric locomotives.

Projects of erecting electric poles, laying electric wire, lowering tunnel bed and setting up communications network and transformer substations are being stepped up at a fast speed.

KCNA Reviews 23 Sep NODONG SINMUN

SK2309055091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 91

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today gives frontpage prominence to the message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Ronald Venetiaan upon the latter's inauguration as president of the Republic of Surinam.

Given in the paper is a message of greetings to Comrade Kim Il- song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of MPLA-Workers' Party and president of the people's Republic of Angola, on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of the founding of the DPRK.

The paper carries a message of greetings the great leader President Kim Il-song received from Chairman Koshiro Ishita of the Central Executive Committee of the Komei Party of Japan in connection with the DPRK's entry into the United Nations.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "Young Men and Women, Be the Young Vanguard Unfailingly Loyal to the Party and the Leader" was reported by foreign mass media, says the paper.

Seen in the paper are the words of the song "Dear Lodestar" composed by a primary school teacher in Pusan, South Korea, highly lauding Comrade Kim Chong-il, and news that he taught the song to the children of his class.

Reported in the paper is news that many legendaries about Comrade Kim Chong-il are afloat among the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas.

The daily deals with the deep love and care shown by Comrade Kim Chong-il to the workers of the Hwanghae iron and steel complex.

Printed in the paper is news that thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was conveyed to the workers, technicians and office employees of the Korean computer centre.

The paper editorially calls for further stepping up socialist economic construction by tapping inner reserves to the maximum.

Party and government senior officials, working people, people's army soldiers laid wreaths in the revolutionary martyrs' cemetery on Mt. Taesong and the patriotic martyrs' cemetery on day of mid-autumn festival, says the daily.

The DPRK ambassador to Thailand paid a courtesy call on the prime minister of the host country and the general secretary of the Central American united party met with the Korean ambassador to Nicaragua, says the paper.

China presented to the tower of the chuche idea high-grade stones engraved with "The chuche idea, Korea's change" and the cap badge of the Jilin Yuwen middle school of China in the days in the 1920s when President Kim Il-song was opening a new epoch of the Korean revolution, while studying at the school in his early revolutionary activities.

The paper carries what a Japanese singer said about the performance of the DPRK Pochonbo light music troupe.

Appearing in the paper is a statement issued to the press by Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party, in support of the DPRK's entry into the United Nations and the Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY published a commentary on this.

Given in the paper is a statement of the Korean Students Committee stressing that the South Korean authorities' suppression of the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) is a reckless act to extend the fascist dictatorship.

The paper carries a letter sent by old man Yi In-mo, former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, who served long prison terms for refusing to be converted in South Korea, to his wife Kim Sun-im in the North.

Sin Won-sik, defector to the northern half of Korea, was interviewed by a KCNA reporter upon his complete abandonment of the U.S. citizenship, says the daily.

Words of people in the northern half of the Republic denouncing the shot to death of Han Kuk-won, a postgraduate of Seoul National University of South Korea, are carried in the paper.

A commentary of the paper brands the South Korean Red Cross's call for "reunion of separated families" and "humanitarianism" as a sinister act seeking propaganda effect departing from the intrinsic stand and attitude of the Red Cross.

South Korean news columns of the paper include reports that students of Kwangju area attacked a police booth.

The paper informs the readers that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets continued military exercises against the North.

South Korean people highly praise the northern half of the Republic as a society of people's welfare where the chuche idea is applied and world public highly lauds the advantages of Korean-style socialism, according to the paper.

The Trade Unions International of Agriculture, Forestry and Plantation Workers issued an appeal supporting the joint statement of the political parties and public organisations of the DPRK, says the paper.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry official sternly criticized the chairman of the Beijing foreign press club regarding the behaviour of Western reporters in unreasonably accusing Chinese side, while defending a British journalist who had been expelled after violating the Chinese law, says the paper

Foreign news columns of the paper includes reports that the Vietnamese foreign minister referred to the question of improving Sino-Vietnamese relations and building of a new society in Egypt, Guinea and Madagascar.

The foreign ministers' meeting of non-aligned states in Accra discussed a series of issues for the development of this movement, says the paper.

KCNA Reviews 24 September Pyongyang Press

SK2409053791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Press Review]

[Text] Pyongyang September 24 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to President of the State Council Joao Bernardo Vieira on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Immortal classical works of the great leader President Kim Il- song were reported in foreign countries, says NODONG SINMUN.

The paper informs the readers that foreign news media reported the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "Young Men and Women, Be the Young Vanguard Unfailingly Loyal to the Party and the Leader."

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for strengthening ideological education to thoroughly establish the working-class viewpoint.

Papers report about innovations in the production of coal, minerals and timbers and harvesting in rural communities.

Papers observe the day of electric workers (September 24).

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON carry articles under the respective titles "Our Young People Are Dependable New Generation Unfailingly Loyal to the Party and the Leader" and "It Is Lawful Demand of the Development of Socialist Society To Strengthen Social Ownership".

NODONG SINMUN says that the head of state of Mali and acting president of Peru met the Korean ambassadors to these countries.

The paper says that the DPRK team gave a good account of itself at the international radio finding contest.

Papers give an account of the opening of the Pyongyang Japanese book exhibition.

Appearing in the press is a statement made public by a spokesman for the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) in denunciation of the high-handed "security-oriented rule" of the No Tae-uo ruling group for "security of regime".

A commentary of NODONG SINMUN brands a "seminar" for night battle staged by the South Korean military bosses as a war racket to step up preparations of a war against the North.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets committed one military exercise after another against the North, according to the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries news that Korean young people in the United States staged a demonstration against No Tae-u's trip to the United States.

Working people in the northern half of Korea condemned the No Tae-u ruling group for brutally shooting to death by pistol Han Kuk- won, a postgraduate of Seoul National University, says the paper.

Introduced in the paper is farmer Kim Sang-won's family in Kimhae County, South Kyongsang province, who has looked after Yi In-mo, former war correspondent of the People's Army, who was released, not being converted to the end defying all sorts of tortures behind bars for 34 years in South Korea.

Celebrations of the 43rd anniversary of the DPRK were held in foreign countries, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries a statement issued to the press by Yom Tae-chun, Presidium member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland in support of the DPRK's entry into the United Nations. It was supported in different countries, says the paper.

The paper reports that the secretary-general of the African National Congress of South Africa referred to the action program of domestic liberation movement.

Papers observe the 18th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

They inform the readers of the Soviet situation.

Cho Tae-hun, a soldier of the South Korean puppet army, who came over to the northern half of Korea, was inteviewed by home and foreign reporters in Pyongyang, says the press.

South Korea

No, Bush Discuss DPRK's Nuclear Development

SK2409010191 Seoul YONHAP in English 2326 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] New York, Sept. 23 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u and U.S. President George Bush agreed Monday that their nations cooperate in pressing communist North Korea to accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities unconditionally .

The two heads of state were of the opinion that North Korea's attempt to develop nuclear weapons poses a threat to stability on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia, a presidential spokesman said.

North Korea is widely believed to be 2-3 years away from developing nuclear weapons and have nuclear reprocessing facilities in Yongbyon, some 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang.

The meeting that took place at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel here lasted for about half an hour. No is scheduled to address the United Nations General Assembly Tuesday to mark his country's admission into the world body last week.

No and Bush shared the view that the Korean problem is crucial in ending the East-West Cold War and it should be solved through dialogue and negotiations between the two Koreas.

The two leaders also agreed that Seoul and Washington would maintain mature and lasting partnership while cementing cooperation in security.

The spokesman said that Bush reaffirmed the U.S. administration's firm commitment to the security of South Korea.

Touching on the political situations in the Soviet Union, the two leaders were of the opinion that stability in the Soviet Union is an important factor in ensuring world peace and stability and that they would provide positive support for Moscow.

No said his government would extend a 3-billion-U.S.-dollar economic aid package to Moscow as planned.

As scheduled, Korea will offer 500 million dollars in cash and 800 million dollars in credit in the second half to buy Korean consumer goods. It already provided 500-million-dollar tied-loans in May.

No told Bush that the Asia-Pacific economic coorporation meeting in Seoul Nov. 12-14 would enhance cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Compensation Sought From Iraq for Gulf Losses

SK2409091991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0846 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will assess its losses from the Gulf war and request compensation from Iraq through the United Nations, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

The government will distribute compensation request forms until Sept. 30 and collect them by Oct. 7, said Yi Hae-sun, director- general of the Ministry's Middle East and African Affairs Bureau.

Yi Ki-chu, assistant foreign minister for economic affairs, will head a special committee to oversee the task, according to the Ministry.

The measures were drawn up by government officials Tuesday in a meeting following the first conference of the governing council under the U.N. Compensation Commission.

The U.N. Security Council decided that governments should be the main channels to request compensation, which covers losses incurred between Aug. 2, 1990, and March 2, 1991.

An estimated 1,300 South Koreans, mostly construction workers who were in Iraq and Kuwait on building contracts, are eligible for compensation, Director-General Yi said.

The governing council has decided to give priority to private losses over commercial losses.

The Foreign and Construction Ministries will be in charge of handling requests from workers, and the Trade and Industry Ministry from general trading companies.

The Construction Ministry will also handle request from construction companies.

U.N. resolutions allow Iraq to sell up to 1.6 billion U.S. dollars of petroleum in the coming six months. Iraq is to set aside 30 percent of the proceeds for compensation.

IAEA Members Pass Resolution Aimed at DPRK

SK2009093991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0914 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Vienna, Sept. 20 (OANA-YONHAP)—Twenty-three member nations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday [19 September] adopted a resolution urging the Agency to assume stronger authority in conducting nuclear inspection on its members.

The move is interpreted as an action aimed at North Korea which is delaying its signing of the nuclear safeguards accord and Iraq which was found to own considerable amount of nuclear materials by a U.N. inspection team.

The resolution, signed by nations, including South Korea, Japan, the United States and the Soviet Union, contains four articles. It calls for preventive measures against non-peaceful use of atomic energy and strengthening and maintaining of inspection duties.

The IAEA Board of Governors, which will meet next February, is to discuss specific ways to strengthen its authority on nuclear inspection.

North Korea, which joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1985, is yet to sign the nuclear safeguards accord with the IAEA, a duty due within 18 months of joining the NPT.

It agreed on the standard agreement of the safeguards accord with the IAEA on July 16 but has delayed in officially signing it.

More on ROK, Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting

SK2409011591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0008 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] New York, Sept. 23 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, who is here to attend the 46th General Assembly of the United Nations, met with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama Monday and asked for Tokyo's prudence in legalizing overseas dispatch of Self-Defense Forces.

During the meeting at Waldorf Astoria Hotel, Yi said Tokyo should take into consideration its neighbors' concern in enacting the law on support for U.N. peace keeping operations [PKO], Yi's spokesman said.

Nakayama said the law on PKO would be implemented under the strict conditions of cooperation for peace within the framework of the United Nations and asserted that the law had nothing to do with military expansion.

He also said his government would be discreet in promoting the law, considering the pains Japan's neighbors had suffered in the past.

Korea and many other Asian neighbors of Japan suffered from its colonial rule and atrocities early this century until it was defeated in World War II in 1945.

As for the normalization talks between Japan and North Korea, Yi said Tokyo should exert prudence on the basis of its agreement with Seoul—significant progress in inter-Korean dialogue and North Korea's unconditional signing of the nuclear safeguards accord of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Japan will prevent its improvement of ties with North Korea from adversely affecting its relations with South Korea, Nakayama said.

The two ministers agreed to keep close cooperation at the United Nations and to make joint efforts for the success of the third ministerial conference of the Asia-Pacific economic cooperation.

Defense Ministry Plans Armed Forces Cut by 1996

SK2409025191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry is drawing up a plan to cut the number of active-duty members of the armed forces to 500,000, or 1 percent of the population, by 1996, sources at the ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry is preparing a blueprint that outlines defense policies for the 21st century and recommends introduction of an all- volunteer armed forces, they said.

The projected plan will call for reduction of unified Korea's combined military forces to 600,000-700,000 men, nearly 1 percent of the South's and North's combined population.

It will recommend the ratio of ground, naval and air forces of the South Korean Armed Forces, currently 88:5:7, will be readjusted to 78:10:12 to beef up the combat readiness of the navy and air force.

All forces deployed near the demilitarized zone will be pulled out, except for those forces necessary to prevent North Korean aggression, in a shift of its defense concept from regional to rapid reaction.

Also considered is reshaping, by furnishing the armed forces with armored weaponry, helicopters and electronic equipment, the sources said.

Clergyman Given Permission To Visit North

SK2409062791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0452 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—The government granted a Seoul evangelist permission Tuesday to visit North Korea.

The Rev. Kwak Sun-hui, who will be the first South Korean clergyman to visit North Korea with permission, will preach a sermon at Pongsu Church in Pyongyang during his eight-day stay.

Kwak will also meet with North Korean religious leaders to discuss South-North Korean religious exchanges.

Kwak expressed his hope to visit North Korea to Ko Ki-chun, secretary of the North Korean Christians Federation, at a meeting of the World Council of Churches last December.

Ko sent an invitation to the 58-year-old minister on Sept. 19.

Kwak, a native of North Korea's Hwanghae Province, will enter the North via Beijing.

North, South Students Agree on Oct, Nov Visits

SK2409091791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0900 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—Students from South and North Korea agreed Tuesday in talks at the truce village of Panmunjom that 110 undergraduates, six graduate students and four professors from Konguk University's Korean Language Department will visit the communist North Oct. 8-15.

If it goes through, the visit will be the first to the North by South Korean students with the blessing of their government.

Four student representatives from each school met in their second round of talks to settle details of the visit. In their first meeting Sept. 18, the Seoul students briefed the Pyongyang students on the schedule and size of their contingent.

In Tuesday's talks, which lasted about 70 minutes, they agreed students from Kim Il-song University will pay a return visit to Seoul in November.

The Seoul students also received invitations and a written guarantee of their safety in the North.

The South Koreans will pass through Panmunjom on Oct. 8 and tour Kaesong, Pyongyang, Mt. Myohang and Mt. Paektu until Oct. 15. They will have a series of seminars with their counterparts from Kim Il-song University and establish sisterhood relations between the two schools.

Atop Mt. Paektu, Korea's tallest mountain, they will hold a ritual prayer for reunification of the nation and they will visit Sungkyunkwan in Kaesong for athletic and cultural festivals.

* ROK Investment in China: Myth, Reality

912C0258A Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 4 Jul 91 p 4

[Article by correspondent Kim Se-hyong from Beijing: "Small-Scale, Independent Company Has Better Chance To Succeed in Chinese Venture"]

[Text] Industry hoping to extend its business to China must look in detail at the following matters: corporate structure; investment scale; type of business; and investment location.

Regarding corporate structure, the following three structures are possible: equity joint venture; cooperative joint venture; and independent venture. Of the three forms, independent venture is the one most recommended, say sources close to the ROK trade office in Beijing and Korean trading companies dealing with China. In the initial stage of Chinese venture, Korean industries mostly chose the form of equity joint venture or cooperative joint venture in order to insure their investments.

Due to conflicts in policy and personnel management, however, efficient management has been difficult.

In recent years, therefore, other countries besides Korea have also prefered independent ventures (about 77 percent of the total contracts). In large-scale ventures such as developing oil fields or selling products within China, however, equity joint venture and cooperative joint venture are still regarded as more beneficial. U.S. companies have formed equity joint ventures with China as they have begun exploring oil fields in the China Sea and mines in China.

Since the Chinese Government intends to export about 70 percent of the products from foreign investments and keep only the remaining 30 percent for domestic consumption, Korean industries should not aim merely for China's domestic consumption.

Case in point is Korea's O-Group which established a plant capable of producing 8 million refrigerators a year in Fuzhou, China. It is a well-known fact that O-Group is still suffering from this venture. Not only because Japanese and Italian models are very popular there, but due to the Chinese Government's continued austerity program, demands for Korean refrigerators have become almost extinct.

It is important to keep in mind that only about 300 million city dwellers out of 1.2 billion Chinese people possess purchasing power. Even then, only a small portion of these city dwellers become potential buyers.

Regarding investment scale, small-scale, trial investments are recommended.

It is due especially to the fact that neither investment guarantee nor trade and tariff agreements exist between Korea and China for now.

Of the 66 investments in China approved by the Bank of Korea by the end of last year, 46 did not exceed $1 million. In the initial stage, small-scale investments ranging from $1 million to $2 million (700 million to 1.5 billion won) are recommended.

Since the death of a Chinese political leader, Deng Xiaoping or Chen Junsheng, could bring political and economic turmoil in China, average foreign investment per business was a relatively small amount of $91,000 in 1988; $97,000 in 1989; and $90,000 dollars in 1990.

Regarding type of business, processing industry, simple manufacturing industry, and real estate service industry are recommended.

At the beginning of its open-door policy, China welcomed foreign investments regardless of the type of business. Since most of the initial foreign investments in China turned out to be in real estate or hotel business, however, the Chinese Government felt that it was not gaining much from its open-door policy while the real profits were given to foreigners. The Chinese Government, therefore, does not allow any foreign investment in real estate service industry.

Liquor, tobacco, small-size cars, and electronic products are all regarded as nonessential, import-restricted consumer goods in China.

Since more sophisticated processing industries require large investments, Hong Kong and Taiwan, with advantage in locality, as well as a more advanced country like the United States invest in these fields.

According to a publication by the U.S.-China Committee, other foreign investments in China are concentrated in such labor-intensive fields as textiles, electronics, and food industries. Korea too should initially invest in similar industries with the addition of the petrochemical industry, Pak Chan-sop, the head of KOTRA [Korea Trade Promotion Corporation] Beijing team says.

The last but not the least is the investment location.

The Chinese Government has designated five special economic development areas, 14 open-door coastal cities and regions. The Chinese Government provides special benefits in customs, foreign exchange, and taxes to the foreign businesses which invest in these so called "Golden Coastal" regions. Guangdong Province, designated as a special economic development area, which includes Xiamen, Shenzhen, Guanghai, and Hainan Island, already has 12 Korean businesses. Hong Kong and Taiwan, however, benefit more from this area due to their locations. Besides, workers' wages in this area have jumped by 700 to 800 won a month lately, diminishing the lure for low wages.

Liaoning Province in the north now has many Japanese industries centered around Luda. The most favorable area for Korean businesses, therefore, appears to be Shandong Province.

Tianjin, Qingdao, and Qinguangdao, the areas selected by the Korea Land Development Company for industrial development, all belong to Shandong Province.

It will be difficult to invest in Jilin Province, where many Koreans live, until the Korea-China relationship changes so that an international trading area may be established at the estuary of the Tuman River. No Jae-won, a trade representative, predicts "at least three to four years before any favorable development can occur in this area."

Although Pudong region near Shanghai, designated as a special industrial development area, is actively inviting foreign investment, it has been eliminated from further consideration due to poor conditions.

To summarize the prospects of Korean investments in China, they have to be, on trial bases, in labor-intensive areas of small-scale manufacturing industries which are preferably located in Shandong Province.

Article Views Effects of Overconsumption

SK2009052891 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Sep 91 pp 1-5

[Text] Our society seems forever alternating between euphoria and self-abhorrence. Given the tumultuous history of our past, perhaps this is inevitable to keep our psyche honed and our devilish mores cleansed once every so often. In the process, however, we have never taught ourselves the art of pausing to think, for a change, and take stock of what we've got and what is in store etc., in a dispassionate fashion.

The self-aggrandizement brought on by the 1988 Olympics, surplus trade balances that lasted for a while, and democratization of the recent past are all behind us. We are now in for a period of self-abasement moaning and groaning, over the trends toward "kwa-so-bi," a Korean version of excessive spending, particularly on imported luxury goods.

It has now become a newly found evil amongst us like some sort of debilitating disease that threatens to do us in soon enough. Those who claim to be patriotically motivated are pointing their accusatory fingers to those morally depraved who are out to destroy our nation with their unquenched shopping sprees as if there is no tomorrow.

What an ironic turn of events this has turned out to be. Only a few decades ago our top leaders confidently predicted that the goal of national salvation would be best achieved when "consumption is accepted as a virtue by the society at large..."

This prediction has since obviously gone haywire because instead of enjoying the fruits of success which brought goodies from all over the world and money to buy them, we are now reminded day in and day out that doomsday is lurking around the corner ever ready to finish us off if we do not mend our ways and stick to Korean goods.

Let's get a few facts straight.

(1) "Kwa-so-bi" ugly and distasteful as it is and unworthy of defense, is nowhere near the main cause of the serious trade deficit and social disequilibrium we are experiencing now, as the anti "kwa-so-bi," campaigners would have us believe;

(2) Those who are painted as morally corrupt and greedy shoppers make up only a fraction of the population.

The Citizens Alliance for Consumer Protection (CACPK), for instance, estimates much less than 1 percent to be in this category;

(3) Consumers have every right to buy or consume what they please in an open market without being branded as socially undesirable or irresponsible. After all, bullish consumers are what keep the market economy machinery running for the benefit of all;

(4) In an open global economy, everyone has the right to compete with others without any barrier. Protectionism is gradually finding itself obsolete in today's international trading. "Getting your money's worth" becomes the only durable linchpin in determining consumers' preference. If the quality is good and price competitive, foreign goods by and large lose their attractiveness;

(5) The modern international trading system demands that if, for whatever reasons, we discriminate against imported foreign goods by design, we should expect reciprocity from others in the like manner. Exports are no longer a self-standing commercial deal which Korea enjoyed for long in the recent past. The crunch now is that the exports are possible to the extent of allowing imports;

(6) Moreover, imports often serve as motivation to improve domestic products in design, quality, and price in addition to meeting needs of consumers; and

(7) "Buy Korean" sounds self-righteous and just, but it cannot sustain itself for long in today's scheme of things. Worse still, applied uniformly, it would in fact be the quickest way to isolate ourselves from the rest of the world.

The present campaign seems to have several related issues mixed up, either purposely or out of ignorance, causing its militancy to be misdirected.

The real problems we have on our hands now ought to be: (a) declining productivity and loss of comparative advantage in exports, (b) long period of overheated economy and resultant inflation, (c) omnipresent wastefulness, (d) insufficient consumer protection, (e) increasing damage to the life supporting system caused by environmentally unfriendly production methods, marketing, and disposal, and (f) need for greater quality control, etc.

Waste has become sickeningly rampant in our daily routines. This is visible in restaurants, wedding ceremonies, company functions, political campaigns, commercial advertisements, social get-togethers, traditional rites, and to top them all, government spending.

Government departments seem to take great pride in sponsoring "mega-programs" involving billions of won worth of tax payers' money where cost-effectiveness and rate of social returns are apparently not taken as seriously as they should, as an essential criterion for investment.

A classic example was the gigantic congress of overseas Koreans to debate the virtues of peaceful unification of the country, held recently in Seoul.

It seems quite odd that such an expensive program should continue even after the initial rationale for it has now made its existence obsolete. By the same reasoning, it is ludicrous to think that these learned gentlemen and ladies who voluntarily opted for settlement overseas years ago can help facilitate the peaceful reunification of Korea today.

Hosting of the international jamboree, Olympic games for overseas Koreans, the mammoth delegation to the UN and so on has certain merits, but did they need to be at such a scale and financial magnitude? Money always seems available in abundance for such ostentatious programs but always short in supply when doing something useful such as improving the quality of education or cleaning up the environment. Re-ordering of priorities seems more like a patriotic act, rather than emotional slogans to "drive out" foreign goods.

Furthermore, instead of zeroing in on the crux of the issue, the government authorities are flexing their muscles against their perceived "kwa-so-bi" practitioners through special watching facilities and tax investigations. This may please misguided citizens in the short term but gives no helping hand in improving our lot in the long term.

Rich "kwa-so-bi" practitioners and those misbehaving and splurging Korean tourists in foreign lands, despicable as they are, are not economic criminals. Their crime is that they have allowed their sudden affluence to go to their heads.

But these phenomena are but natural, human reactions and, at any rate, characteristic of a phasing fad that Japan, for instance, lived through in the 1960s and 70s. We will be well-advised to bear with the trend for now, because sooner or later, we will snap out of such immature behavior and grow to be more responsible and self-conscious on our own.

But there are real economic criminals in our midst which concern us to no end. They are the unscrupulous "get rich quick" wheeler dealers of big money grabbing ventures who resort habitually to briberies and illegal transactions. There are others who think nothing of degrading the environment for their economic gains. They should be the real targets of public condemnation.

We are often given stories of how Japanese, Germans, et al. took frugality, recycling, conservation, etc. close to their hearts at the height of their economic success, and how we should emulate them and so on. There is obviously some truth in these, but there may also be an element of exaggeration to serve the cause of masochistic self-deprecation.

Even though a passing craze, "kwa-so-bi" is clearly an undesirable social scene and should not be allowed to go overboard. But it should not be used as a means of misleading the people or distracting our attention from real issues of today either.

A "correct living" must start with a correct understanding of the inter-relationship of various survival elements that see us through in modern times.

Chamber of Commerce Views Labor Shortage

SK1909030191 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Sep 91 p 6

[Text] The industrial manpower shortage in Korea has reached a worrisome level, particularly in simple laboring and low-end sales areas, the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry [KCCI] said yesterday.

Based on its survey of 1,969 member companies in six industrial lines, the KCCI recommended that the government shape up emergency steps to induce more workers to productive manufacturing businesses, curb the growth of service industries, help support manpower recruiting by smaller firms and prevent excessive head hunting among rival enterprises.

The manpower shortfall was most conspicuous in manufacturing industries, including mining, construction, footwear and electronics. Regionally, Pusan, Taejon and the Chungchong provinces suffered most.

The survey report showed that the average length of service of factory hands stood at a mere 22.7 months for the past couple of years.

It said that the labor demand would sharply rise on assembly lines and in the R&D [Research and Development] field, while that for simple labor, sales and desk-bound administration would be negligible. The graduates of engineering high schools will be most popular among employers, followed by technical colleges and vocational schools, it said.

To crack the manpower problem, the firms are taking various steps such as consistent intra-company position change, scouting of new- graduates and intensive on-the-job training. Most manufacturers are also filling the gap through automation, hiring married women and retired people, it said.

The report recommended as a conclusion that the government provide sufficient housing for workers in manufacturing industries and ensure lower income tax, while heavily taxing unearned income such as through real estate speculation. Also recommended were the establishment of more kindergartens for children of working mothers and the extension of retirement age.

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*7th 5-Year Plan for Economic, Social Development

912C0269A Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 12 Jul 91 p 3

[Article by Kim Se-hyong:"Seventh Five-Year Plan for Economic Social Development: $11,000 GNP by 1996, 7.5 Percent Average Growth"]

[Text] The seventh five-year plan demonstrates the government's decision to break the vicious cycle of high growth and high prices and to establish a foundation of low prices and a more appropriate solid annual growth of 5 percent. Investment in new construction will be held to the current rate of 33 percent thus easing a chronic shortage of capital, and overheated economic activities will cool down when the rate of increased consumption declines from 10 percent to 7 percent. The government believes that under this plan, excess funds will dry up and they intend to maintain the total currency supply at 15-16 percent, 2-3 percent lower than the current level; a liberalization of interest rates will reduce the interest rate from the current 17 percent down to 12 percent.

Low growth will keep the trade surplus level at 2 percent thus changing the status of the country from a debtor nation to a creditor nation by 1994 and this will improve the country's reputation before it becomes one of the 10 economically advanced nations.

However, the government believes that it is possible that new problems will be encountered following the settlement of free trade negotiations: the domestic, finance and service markets will be completely opened and the country will experience a big change over the next five years because of a possibility that the number of imports and consumer demand will dramatically increase at the slightest slip in the government's vigilance. Specifically, there is a possibility that the overheating of economic activities will be intensified and financial difficulties increased because of a rise in exports and indebtedness of the northern district (North Korea) and East European countries. Over-consumption will surge again and will be stimulated by the opening of the circulation market, and international income and growth will adversely affect and destabilize the exchange rate. This plan has also not taken into consideration the possibility of South-North unification.

The following is an explanation of each aspect of the plan:

Economic Growth (GNP)

The Gross National Product (GNP) recently reached a 9-10 percent growth rate that will be rapidly reduced to 7 percent and there is some concern about the resulting side effects, therefore, under the seventh five-year plan the GNP will be reduced to 8 percent from 1992 to 1993, to 7.2 percent from 1994 to 1996, and will finally be maintained at an average of 7.5 percent.

The average income is expected to be $11,000 per year, but due to rising prices a person's actual purchasing power will be $9,300, an amount similar to those living in Hong Kong and Singapore.

If the growth rate increases to 9 percent, prices jump 10 percent and the number of imports increases to 11-12 percent, the current government account will continue to show a deficit and this could be a big problem.

However, economists maintain that "the 9-10 percent growth rate will continue for some time."

Prices

There are plans to reduce the supply of currency 15-16 percent, and citizen consumption and the rate of investment combined with price controls will bring inflation to approximately 5 percent.

This figure is almost half the 9.5 percent of 1990-1991. The government wants to maintain a "raise wages 5 percent," over last year's level of 9-10 percent, as a ground rule to maintain a 5 percent inflation rate.

Wholesale prices will be maintained at 2-3 percent and there is a plan to reduce the difference in current consumer prices 5-6 percent.

Industrial System

There is a plan to double the current level of exports from 11.4 percent to 22.4 percent in an effort to revitalize manufacturing and development relative to the advanced technology field, when the condition of the export market improves. GDP [gross domestic product] expenditures for mining and manufacturing industries are expected to rise to 32.6 percent (manufacturing industry: 32.4 percent) from the current rate of 29.6 percent and the agricultural, forestry, and fishing industries will occupy 6.5 percent, down from the current level of 8.6 percent.

The Balance of International Payment

The amount of international trade is expected to increase rapidly when the world economy recovers and free trade negotiations are settled, therefore the export rate is expected to increase to 13.2 percent, and the import rate to 11 percent.

There is a possibility that as the economy opens up to international trade the level of imports will surpass that of exports. Under the government's plan there is the chance that the trade balance will be equal in 1992 and in the black $7.5 trillion in 1996. The GNP also will be in the black at the 0.8-1.5 percent level.

Employment System

Under the sixth plan, the rate of population increase will decline to 0.9 percent, down from 1 percent, and the rate of growth in economic activity will dip to 2.2 percent, down from 3.3 percent.

The number of workers in various employment fields will change: in agriculture, forestry, and fishing the number will decline to 12.9 percent, down from 17 percent and the amount in mining and manufacturing industry related jobs will be increased to 29.2 percent (manufacturing industry: 29.0 percent), up from the current figure of 27.7 percent.

The government plans to maintain the unemployment rate at the 2.4 percent level.

Finance and the Supply of Funds

The liberalization of interest rates and an improvement in methods of currency management will create openings in the currency market. There is a plan to increase the rate of private fund reserves (GNP) from the 1990 rate of 11.7 percent to 12.5 percent and to reduce the deficit in the industrial fund to 11.2 percent, down from 17.1 percent. The government also predicts that the currency exchange rate will stabilize on or about the 725 won to the dollar level.

Financial demand requirements from society's indirect funding and the science education environment will rise 4 percent, therefore, the individual's tax burden will increase to 22-23 percent, up from the 1991 rate of 18.4 percent.

Burma

Bomb Explodes Outside Rangoon's Thamada Theater

BK2409023891 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0130 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] A bomb exploded at 2055 on 23 September in front of the Thamada [President] Theater. A package was reported to have been dropped in front of the Thamada Theater from a yellow Datsun pick-up truck, which was seen driving along the Alanpya Phaya Road toward the city center.

Seven innocent travelers were injured in the explosion and three women fainted due to shock. Those injured were: U Kan Htwe, 29, from Mehkata village, Kutkai Township, who was staying at No. 132 Myanmar Gonyi Street, Mingala Taungnyunt; Maung Tin Maung Soe, 24, a construction worker; Maung Thein Maung, 16, an eighth standard student at No. 1 State School of Latha, of No. 128 30th Street, Ward 7, Pabedan Township; Maung Aung Gyi, 22, of Railway Quarters, Mingalataungnyunt Township; Maung Khin Maung Soe Tun, 25, of Thingangyun Township; Maung Chit Lay Maung, ninth standard student of No. 1 State High School, Latha, of No. 113 27th Street, Pabedan Township; and Dr. Aung Tun, 33, from 367, Shanzu Taung, Myitkyina, who was staying at Room 411, the President.

Those who fainted and went into shock were: Ma Khin Shwe, 22, of No. 133, 30th Street; Ma Ingyin, 16, of No. 21 103d Street, Mingala Taungnyunt Township; and Ma Mya Mya Moe, 23, of No. 34-B, Thayargon Street, Ward 2, Pazundaung Township.

It is reported that the bomb is believed to have been a U.S.-made hand grenade, the type is usually used by the KNU [Karen National Union] insurgents. The authorities are investigating the explosion and the vehicle involved in the explosion.

Minister Returns From UN-Sponsored Oil Meeting

BK2309140191 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and minister for energy and mines, flew back to Yangon [Rangoon] this afternoon after attending in Malaysia from 16 to 18 September the high-level meeting on administrative and financial strategies on petroleum development and production sponsored by the United Nations Center on Transnational Corporations.

The delegation was welcomed back at the airport by General Than Shwe, deputy chairman of SLORC; Lieutenant General Tin Tun, minister for transport and communications and for social welfare and labor as well as a member of SLORC; Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of SLORC; Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, chairman of Yangon division law and order restoration council and commander of the Yangon military command; Brigadier General Abel, minister for planning and finance and for trade; and senior military officers; responsible personnel from the Ministries of Energy and Mines; and Malaysian Ambassador Mr. Sallehudin bin Abdullah and embassy officials.

Returning together with the minister were U Tin Tun, director general of the Energy Planning Department; U Pe Khin, director of engineering of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise; and Naval Lieutenant Thaung Kyaing, personal secretary to the minister.

SLORC Secretary Defends Council's Actions

BK2209113191 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and chairman of the Work Committee for Development of the Border Areas and National Races, accompanied by committee members Rear Admiral Than Nyunt, Navy commander in chief; Maj. Gen. Thein Win, Air Force commander in chief; Police Brigadier General Pe Kyi, adjutant general of the People's Police Force; responsible personnel from the SLORC chairman's office and the SLORC office; directors general and managing directors from departments and enterprises; and responsible personnel left Yangon [Rangoon] by military aircraft on the morning of 20 September and arrived at Kale, Sagaing division at 0945. [passage omitted]

The secretary-1 and party accompanied by commander Maj. Gen. Kyaw Min, chairman of Sagaing division Law and Order Restoration Council [LORC], left Kale for Tamu, Sagaing division, by military helicopters and were warmly welcomed by Major Thein Htay Win, chairman of Tamu township LORC, departmental officials, and local people. Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt next met with township and ward law and order restoration council [LORC] members, and departmental personnel at the township LORC office. [passage omitted]

At the meeting, Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said that this was the second time he had come to Tamu. On his previous trip, development assistance was handed over to fulfill the requirements of Tamu, a border town. The visit this time around is to inspect and review the progress made since the last visit and to continue giving assistance where needed. [passage omitted]

Khin Nyunt said: It has been three years since the Defense Services took over the reins of power to save the country from disintegration during the 1988 disturbances. In the same way as the Defense Services founded the Revolutionary Council in 1962 to conduct the affairs of the nation through a revolution, the Defense Services formed the SLORC in 1988 and have been carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the country through a revolution. [passage omitted]

Being a military government, the SLORC has the right to govern the country with martial law, but the SLORC has been practicing martial law only when the need arises. At other times, existing laws govern the activities concerning law and order and regional peace and tranquillity. As promised, the SLORC has successfully held free and fair elections. It is now following the procedures outlined in Declaration 1/90 for the emergence of a strong and stable constitution according to the desires of the people. In the interim period before a strong and stable government can be established under a new constitution, the SLORC is working in the interests of the nation and the people and in conformity with its three main objectives—the non-disintegration of the union, the non-disintegration of national solidarity, and ensuring perpetuity of national sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Continuing, Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said that Myanmar [Burma] is a UN member country and its government is a legal one recognized by and having friendly relations with other UN member countries. Despite this, several responsible officials of some major countries have been receiving the exiled insurgent Sein Win group [National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma] and spreading false propaganda about the group. These are unbecoming acts. Come what may, the SLORC will continue to do its duties, adhere to its original stance, and pursue its objectives. It is essential for the national people to work collectively under the leadership of the SLORC to reach the envisaged goal. Public service personnel, while staying clear of party politics and being loyal to the nation, must strive with a sense of nationalism, patriotism, and love for the Union.

Later, Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt cordially greeted those present at the meeting. [passage omitted]

Ruling Council, Election Commission Meet 23 Sep

BK2309142591 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] General Than Shwe, deputy chairman of State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services, and the members of the SLORC met with the members of the Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission headed by Commission Chairman U Ba Htay at the Ministry of Defense at 0900 today.

Present on the occasion together with Gen. Than Shwe were SLORC members Lieutenant General Aung Ye Gyaw, Lt. Gen. Sein Aung, Lt. Gen. Chit Swe, and Major General Myo Nyunt, and SLORC Secretary-1 Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt as well as Attorney General U Tha Dun.

Accompanying Commission Chairman U Ba Htay to the meeting were commission members U Saw Kyar Doe, U Sann Maung, Saya Chai, and U Kyaw Nyunt and Commission Secretary U Aye Maung.

Following the meeting, at 0930, Gen. Than Shwe and SLORC members, Attorney General U Tha Dun, Election Commission members, members of the Committee for Compiling True Historical Facts headed by Committee Chairman Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, and members of the SLORC's Information Committee inspected books and documentary evidence of historical facts on display at the auditorium of the Defense Ministry.

The exhibits contained documents on the Caretaker Government era, the Union Party Government era, and achievements of the Revolutionary Council and true events during its rule; records of discussions and speeches by the leaders; notifications; papers detailing the stance and policy of the Revolutionary Council regarding the national races; records of peace talks; documents pertaining to the drafting of the 1947 and the 1974 constitutions; supporting documents to the speeches by Senior General Saw Maung; papers regarding the events of 1988; the activities of Daw [Aung San] Suu Kyi in opposing the government and the Defense Services; documents from overseas publications; activities against the state by the National League for Democracy; biographies of the members of Parliament and results of investigations into the biographies; other important documentary evidence; and legal and religious books and documents.

The officials were shown around and briefed on the exhibits by Lieutenant Colonel Win Maung of the Ministry of Defense.

Brunei, Malaysia, & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir, ROK President Discuss Aid to USSR

BK2409055891 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0416 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] New York, Sept 24 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia is trying to meet as much as possible the Soviet Union's request for credit of U.S.$200 million for palm oil supplies, Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said.

Arriving here on Sunday after a six-day official visit to Mexico, he met President No Tae-u of South Korea on Monday and discussed the current developments in the Soviet Union, among other matters.

Later, speaking to Malaysian newsmen, Dr. Mahathir said President No and he agreed on the importance of helping President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet Union, which was now facing food shortages.

"South Korea has already extended help to the Soviet Union while Malaysia was looking into supplying as much palm oil as it possibly could," he added.

The Soviet Union's request for U.S.$200 million worth of palm oil on credit was raised when the country's delegation attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' post ministerial meeting with its dialogue partners in Kuala Lumpur in July. The Soviet Union was invited as an observer to the conference for the first time.

Asked if Malaysia would be giving other aid, Dr. Mahathir said what the Soviet Union required now was edible oil.

"They can get other goods from other places," he added.

The prime minister said his talks with President No at the Central Park Plaza Hotel, where they were both staying, also touched on the question of APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation), an economic cooperative bloc encompassing Pacific rim countries, mooted by the United States.

Dr. Mahathir touched on how ASEAN should be protected so that it would not be engulfed by APEC.

President No agreed with the prime minister on this matter.

Both the leaders are here to attend the United Nations General Assembly. South Korea was accepted as a member at the current session.

Singapore

Energy Minister on Spratly Islands Development

BK2309140891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1355 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Singapore, Sept 23 (AFP)—Malaysia is enlarging one of the islands in the disputed Spratly islands in the South China Sea to boost tourism development, a Malaysian minister said here Monday.

Samy Vellu, minister of energy, telecommunications and post, said his government aimed to build tourist hotels and an airstrip but nothing else on the island known as Swallow Atoll.

"I don't think we will do anything there. We are enlarging the island to make it better for tourist development such as building hotels. It's purely tourist development at the moment," he said at a news briefing after delivering his keynote speech at the Seventh Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference.

The Spratlys, believed to contain extensive deposits of oil, gas and other mineral resources, are claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, China, Taiwan and Brunei.

Vellu also revealed that the National Energy Board (NEB), which has already been corporatised, would be listed on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange by April 1992.

He said, however, that the Malaysian government has not made any decision on the foreign share limit when the board was listed.

But the government intended to maintain token holding "so that it can keep an eye to make sure the company has the interest of the general public since this is a utility concern," Vellu said.

On another matter, Vellu said, Malaysia planned to pursue discussions with Iran on possible oil cooperation between the two countries. He said Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba, who recently visited Tehran, was convinced of the potential for mutual benefit.

Government Set To Review Policies

BK2309143691 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Sep 91 p 1

[By Sumiko Tan]

[Excerpt] The Government will review its policies over the next two to three months to see how best they can be presented, especially to lower-income Chinese-speaking Singaporeans, Mr Goh Chok Tong said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference at the end of his first community visit after the General Election, he said that the new approach will be spelt out in the President's Address when the new Parliament opens next January,

His remarks about how Chinese-educated Singaporeans had signalled their unhappiness over government policies during the election were his first since the issue was raised by Deputy Prime Minister Ong Teng Cheong last week, when he said that the group had felt neglected.

"I would rate Mr Ong as representing the conservative, Chinese section of the PAP [People's Acton Party]," the Prime Minister said.

"That section might have felt that I was moving too fast because I was trying to reach out to the yuppies, the professionals ... opening up discussion on the liberalising of film classifications, establishing the Singapore International Foundation, and so on.

"These polices do not quite appeal to the lower-income group whose main concern are essentially bread-and-butter issues like carpark charges," he said.

The Government would now reach out to this group to "give them hope".

But, he stressed, this did not mean that the Government had neglected the Chinese ground for, if it did, many of these voters would not be living in three-, four- or five-room flats.

In fact, he noted that he had mentioned before the election that he was going to focus his policies on the lower 80 per cent of Singaporeans.

"That is coming, but they haven't seen it yet, so they felt neglected. Had they given me more time—three, four or five years—they will see that some policies will be percolating to them," he said. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Talks Held With SRV National Assembly Group

BK2009143791 Hanoi VNA in English 1410 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 20—A visiting Vietnamese National Assembly delegation led by Chairman Le Quang Dao, who is also vice president of the Council of State, held talks in Phnom Penh this morning with a Cambodian National Assembly delegation led by President Chea Sim.

Also present at the talks on the Vietnamese side were Huynh Cuong, vice chairman of the National Assembly, Vu Mao, membber of the State Council, and chairman of the Vietnam-Cambodia Friendship Association, and on the Cambodian side were Math Ly, vice chairman of the National Assembly, Nou Beng, vice president of the National Assembly and Kham Len, vice president of the National Assembly.

At the talks, President Chea Sim expressed thanks to the Vietnamese party, state and people for their valuable and timely aid to flood victims in Cambodia.

For his part, Chairman Le Quang Dao also thanked the Cambodia National Assembly and mass organizations for their warm welcome and cordial sentiments towards the Vietnamese delegation.

The two sides informed each other of the situation in each country, exchanged views on regional and international situations of mutual concern. They had an identity of views on issues brought up for discussion.

Chairman Le Quang Dao invited President Chea Sim to visit Vietnam. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The time of the visit will be decided later.

Communique Issued

BK2209083291 Hanoi VNA in English 0631 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept 22—The solidarity, friendship and all-round cooperation between Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos greatly contribute to peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

This was stated in a press communique released in Phnom Penh yesterday on the result of the Vietnamese National Assembly delegation's visit to Cambodia from Sept 16-21.

The communique read:

The Vietnamese National Assembly delegation held talks with a Cambodian National Assembly delegation led by Chea Sim, the two sides informed each other of the situation in their respective countries and exchanged ideas on regional and international issues and experiences in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and sincerity. They were unanimous on all questions raised at the talks. Chea Sim informed his guests of the Cambodian situation after the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer army from Cambodia, in which the Cambodian Armed Forces and people have themselves assumed the task of defending and building their fatherland while persisting in the struggle for a peaceful solution to the Cambodia issue.

Le Quang Dao warmly hailed and highly valued the great achievements of the Cambodian people as well as the tireless efforts of the Cambodian Army and people, who have, under the wise leadership of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea (PPRK), brought into full play the spirit of self-reliance, overcome all difficulties, firmly defended their social gains and held high the banner of independence, peace and national concord, thus raising the perestige and position of the State of Cambodia on the international arena.

The Vietnamese National Assembly delegation voiced full support for the State of Cambodia's goodwill and just stance in the search for an overall political solution to the Cambodian issue, which will meet the Cambodian people's sacred aspiration and legitimate interest and conform to the interests of the people in Indochina and the region. Le Quang Dao welcomed the results gained by the Supreme National Council of Cambodia and affirmed that the Vietnamese party, state and people would continue to spare no (no) effort to contribute, together with the international community, to an early overall political solution to the Cambodia question on the basis of respect for the Cambodian people's question on the basis of respect for the Cambodian people's right to self-determination as well as for the State of Cambodia's sovereignty and in conformity with the UN Charter.

Chea Sim expressed sincere and profound thanks to the Vietnamese party, state and people for their precious support and assistance to the Cambodian people in their cause of national defence and construction. Le Quang Dao informed his hosts of the situation in Vietnam as well as major orientations in Vietnam's internal and external policies as confirmed at the 7th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

President Chea Sim highly valued and warmly welcomed the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people. He expressed his belief that the Vietnamese people would obtain still greater successes in the implementation of the resolutions of the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the resolutions of the Ninth Session of the 8th National Assembly.

President Chea Sim voiced strong support for the external policy of peace, friendship and cooperation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. He also welcomed the normalization and development of the neighbourly relations between Vietnam and the People's Republic of China, as well as the expansion of the mutually beneficial relations between Vietnam and ASEAN as well as other countries in the world.

The two leaders expressed their pride at the fine development of the traditional friendship and all-round cooperation between the parties, states and peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia.

The two leaders hailed and highly valued the achievements recorded by the fraternal Lao people in the implementation of the renovation policy of the Lao People's Revolutionaryy Party.

They stressed that the friendship, solidarity and allsided cooperation between Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos have made important contributions to peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

President Chea Sim highly appreciated the results of the visit to Cambodia by the Vietnamese National Assembly delegation, considering them new steps of development in the relations of close solidarity and cooperation between parties, states and peoples of Cambodia and Vietnam.

Chairman Le Quang Dao expressed profound and sincere thanks to the Cambodian party, state and people for their hospitality.

On behalf of the Vietnamese National Assembly, Chairman Le Quang Dao invited President Chea Sim to visit Vietnam. President Chea Sim accepted the invitation with pleasure. The time of the visit will be decided later." [end quote as received]

Delegation Leaves

BK2409092391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] This morning, 21 September, our National Assembly delegation led by Chairman Le Quang Dao left the capital city of Phnom Penh for home, successfully concluding its official friendship visit to Cambodia.

A solemn ceremony was held at the Pochentong International Aiport to bid farewell to the delegation.

Attending the seeing-off ceremony were National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim, Vice Chairman Mat Ly, Vice Chairman Nu Beng, Vice Chairman Kham Len, Council of State Secretary General Chan Ven, Deputy Foreign Minister Long Visalo, and many other high-ranking party and state leaders of the State of Cambodia as well as large numbers of representatives of agencies, mass organizations, people of the capital city of Phnom Penh, and Vietnamese residents.

Also on hand at the airport to bid farewell to the delegation were Ambassador Ngo Dien and his wife, Military Attache Colonel Pham Van Lang, many cadres and employees of our embassy as well as representatives of agencies affiliated to our embassy, and Vietnamese specialists and students on work assignment or under training programs in Cambodia.

Army Issues Communique on Cease-Fire Violations

BK2309130791 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Undated "Press communique of the Army Press Department on the cease-fire violations of the Pol Pot and Sereika troops in the second week of September"—read by announcer]

[Text] In the second week of September 1991, Pol Pot and Sereika [Son Sann] troops continued to successively carry out activities in violation of the unlimited cease-fire. On four occasions they fired 225 shells and on three occasions robbed the people of a pair of buffaloes, two bicycles, and two motorcycles.

At 1500 on 4 September, Sereika and Pol Pot troops cooperated in lobbing 200 shells on the areas east and southeast of Svay Chek and Tapho in Banteay Meanchey Province.

In Bavel District, Battambang Province, on 3, 4, and 5 September, these troops fired over 20 H-12 and DK-82 shells on a number of villages in Kdol and Ampil Pram Daeum Communes.

In Kompong Thom Province, on 9 and 10 September, Pol Pot troops in Divisions 802 and 616 infiltrated into villages and robbed our people of two buffaloes, two bicycles, and a quantity of gold and money. Still in Kompong Thom Province, Pol Pot troops made efforts to bring in their forces to carry out activities in villages and communes in Prasat Sambo District to spread slander through their propaganda and also threatened our people's lives.

The above maneuvers of the Pol Pot and Sereika groups further show their intransigence in not wanting to end the war in Cambodia.

PICC Reviewing Peace Settlement Meetings

BK2309153791 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Sep 91

["Reports we have just received"]

[Text] On the afternoon of 21 September, members of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] met in New York to listen to reports on the results of the recent meetings to solve the Cambodian problem.

Attending the meeting was representatives of the 19 countries of the PICC. These are the six ASEAN countries—Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Singapore—the UN Security Council [UNSC] five permanent members—the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France, and Britain—and Vietnam, Laos, Canada, Japan, India, Australia, (?Cambodia), and Rafeeuddin Ahmed, representative of the UN Secretary General.

Opening the meeting, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Cambodian SNC, reported on the results achieved at the informal meeting of the Cambodian SNC and the meeting between the SNC and the five permanent members, in particular on the agreement achieved on the electoral system to be implemented in the general election and on the military arrangement in Cambodia.

After the samdech read the report, the representatives of Indonesia and France, PICC cochairmen, recalled the recent efforts of the process to achieve peace in Cambodia. The French delegate specified the contributions of Vietnam and China in this process. Representatives of other countries who also spoke were from India, Laos, Japan, and Thailand. Diplomats said that Vietnam and Thailand put forward their proposals on amending the draft agreement. Laos and Japan said they wanted to put forward for examination their proposals to amend this [words indistinct]. All amendments will be discussed and examined for inclusion into the final draft before this draft is signed in Paris, planned for 31 October.

The participants specified that this meeting went on in a positive atmosphere and achieved progress. The reports also say that the UNSC five permanent members and Indonesia met in New York on 20 and 21 September 1991. The UN Secretary General representative was also present on the occasion.

On 20 [as heard] September, the UNSC five permanent members and Indonesia met for the second time along with the Cambodian SNC under Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's chairmanship. The five major powers and Indonesia welcomed the informal meeting of the PICC members, held on 21 [as heard] September to exchange views on the latest development of the peace process. The five major powers and Indonesia noted with satisfaction the decision by the Cambodian SNC on the electoral system for the general election in Cambodia by adopting the proportional representation system at the provincial level. The five major powers and Indonesia also welcomed the 20 September letter of the Cambodian SCN chairman to the UN Secretary General which further clearly shows the process of how the decision was made. The five major powers and Indonesia welcomed the decision by all Cambodian parties to provide quickly to the UN Secretariat detailed information on their respective military forces to facilitate the process of making preparations for the military arrangement of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], saying that this further shows the spirit of cooperation which has developed within the Cambodian SNC.

The five major powers and Indonesia hope that the UN Secretary General will, in a short period of time, present to the UNSC his views on a plan to dispatch a UN intervention mission to Cambodia in the near future after the agreement on a comprehensive solution has been signed. The five major powers and Indonesia especially noted with satisfaction that the process to create an agreement on a comprehensive solution for Cambodia seems to have reached its final phase, whose results have made the goal of national reconciliation and durable peace in Cambodia taking clear shape. Also concerning this issue, they have expressed the hope that the PICC could be convened at the end of this coming October.

Sources in New York further say that the UNSC five permanent members and Indonesia on 21 September welcomed the electoral system agreed upon by the Cambodian SNC on 19 September. A communique issued at the end of the two-day meeting at the UN office in New York, with the participation of Ahmed, UN Secretary General representative, the five permanent members, and Indonesia, says that the five permanent members expressed satisfaction at the decision by the SNC on the electoral system, which allows national elections throughout Cambodia through the proportional representation at the provincial level.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev describes the talks of the five permanent members as most constructive and the statement the best communique. We have agreed on everything and there will be no more major changes in what has been agreed between the five permanent members and the Cambodian SNC, and among the SNC members themselves.

After the 20 September meeting of the five permanent members and Indonesia with the Cambodian SNC, there was also a meeting in which the United States proposed a number of amendments, or at least prepared the stage for later changes on the military arrangement in Cambodia on which the Cambodian SNC has agreed. Experts say that the United States was not pleased with the demobilization of all Cambodian troops after the elections. If that is the case, this issue seems to have been resolved, or was not raised that day.

The chief French delegate Jean-David Levitte, director of the French Foreign Minister's Asian Affairs Department, says that there is no longer any problem concerning the military arrangement. Richard Solomon, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State in charge of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, says we have discussed many issues; however among all these issues, agreement is still needed on a number of issues with the SNC. However, he adds that we have made some progress on the issue of troop demobilization. The spirit of cooperation is very high at the moment.

The communique says that the five permanent members and Indonesia welcomed the 20 September message of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian SNC chairman, to the UN Secretary General in which the samdech gave assurance that he will transfer the power to take a decision to the UN Secretary General's representative in Cambodia in the event the Samdech is absent because of illness or cannot make a decision. They say Samdech Sihanouk's letter further clearly shows the decision-making process. The communique also says the five permanent members and Indonesia welcomed further evidence demonstrating the increased cooperative spirit within the Cambodian SNC and the decision by all Cambodian parties to provide quickly to the UN Secretariat detailed information on their respective military forces to facilitae the process of making preparations for the military aspect of UNTAC. They hope that the UN Secretary General would be able to present in a short period of time to the UNSC for examination a plan concerning the immediate dispatch of a UN intervention mission to Cambodia after an agreement on a comprehensive solution has been signed.

The communique says that the five permanent members and Indonesia hope that they would reconvene the PICC at the end of October. Diplomats say that 31 October has been set as the date for the signing of the agreement. Jean-David Levitte says that he is fairly optimistic about the prospect of reconvening the PICC at the end of October. We have to be careful because there could obstacles or difficulties at the last minute. On the afternoon of 21 September, the UNSC five permanent members and the PICC members will meet for the first time after a long break. It is expected that advice would be provided on amendments. We have to wait and see how this afternoon's meeting proceeds.

Mr Levitte also says the five permanent members have already discussed in a good and positive spirit the dispatch of a UN mission to Cambodia. He says the UNSC will adopt as soon as possible a solution on this issue. He further says that we should wait for the report however, which is now in the hands of the UN Secretariat—which should do its best to provide this report soon. He predicted that the report will be completed next week.

Mr Levitte says that [word indistinct] of military observers whom he says will come to Cambodia after the signing of the peace agreement in Paris and before the return of Samdech Sihanouk to Phnom Penh will be decided by the UN Secretariat. He also says that the United Nations have not yet made any preparations for the trip of UNTAC to Cambodia. We are still discussing details. The text will be prepared. They have already examined a large-scale operation. Immediately after the agreement is signed in Paris, they will make preparations for a large-scale operation to make an assessment. Only on the basis of the UN Secretariat's report that the UNSC will decide on this issue. Therefore, there in a lot of work to be done before UNTAC is deployed in Cambodia. For this reason, it is very important to undertake preliminary work before the deployment of UNTAC in Cambodia, by dispatching observers to Cambodia.

The time needed for the preparations for the deployment of UNTAC in Cambodia, according to Levitte, is about four months after the signing of the peace agreement. During these four months, the first two months are for the UN Secretariat to prepare an extensive report for the UNSC. The other two months are for preparations for [words indistinct]. Mr Levitte says the time needed for the full deployment of UNTAC in Cambodia has not yet been determined. He explains that we are still in the preliminary stage and the UN Secretariat has not yet fully examined this issue.

When asked when the United Nations will withdraw from Cambodia, Mr Levitte says no one knows when. In his assessment, the elected constitutional assembly in Cambodia will need about two or three months, and not more, to adopt a constitution. Afterward, this assembly will become a legislative assembly and elect a government. Immediately after this government is set up, UNTAC will cease its work and start withdrawing from Cambodia.

It is obvious that this work cannot be done over night. In my view, this large-scale operation will require at least one year, and could be over a year. However, no one knows for sure. Mr Levitte also predicts that the time before the election will not be less than a year and not more than a year and a half. On 20 September, Samdech Sihanouk said that there are at least 18 months for the people to correctly evaluate each party.

Finally, the reports say that on 21 September in New York, Cambodian residents in the United States and the State of Cambodia's American friends hosted a very warm reception for Comrade Chairman of the Council of Ministers Hun Sen and the State of Cambodia delegation, which is in New York to attend the Cambodian SNC informal meeting and the 46th UN General Assembly.

The reception, hosted by the Humanitarian Community of Cambodia in the United States, includes over 100 Cambodians and American nationals representing many American citizens who have for many years supported the State of Cambodia's cause and who have persistently struggled against the return to Cambodia of the danger from the past.

Speaking at the reception, (Tan Bunhorn), chairman of the Cambodian Humanitarian Association in the United States, expressed profound admiration for the State of Cambodia's government for the heroic task of rebuilding Cambodia from scratch after the destruction by the Pol Pot group. He also voiced the determination of the Cambodian community to continue the careful task to oppose the return to power of the Pol Pot group.

Replying, Comrade Hun Sen recalled the process of peace negotiations in Cambodia and stressed the determination and efforts of the State of Cambodia's government to oppose the Pol Pot group's return. He also talked about the situation in Cambodia and the past and present efforts of the State of Cambodia's government to rebuild life in Cambodia. Comrade Hun Sen also stressed the policy of State of Cambodia's government to build a multiparty system and a market economy in Cambodia, which in the comrade's words, will be in accordance with Cambodia's real conditions. Comrade Hun Sen's stress on Cambodia's need for independence and not to live under a foreign major power or any organization was greeted with loud applause.

KPNLF Official on New York Meetings

BK2409093991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Station editor Pol Ham's interview in New York with Ieng Muli, general secretary of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front Executive Committee and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Pol Ham] The meetings in New York to solve the Cambodian problem have ended and these meetings can be considered a big success for the signing in Paris at the end of October.

There were three meetings in New York. The first was the meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] on 19 September; the second was the meeting between the SNC and the five major powers along with the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] and the UN Secretary General's representative on (?20 and) 21 September; and the third meeting was betwen the SNC and the 19 countries, members of the PICC, on the afternoon of the 21st [September].

I, Pol Ham, now would like to invite Ieng Muli, general secretary of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] Executive Committee and SNC member, who attended the meetings to solve the Cambodian problem, to talk to compatriot listeners from New York. Please go ahead.

[Ieng Muli] Gretings to the respected and beloved clergy and compatriots: Today I am honored to report to our clergy and compatriots on the outcome of the talks in New York, USA, which started on 19 September 1991 until today, the last day.

On the first day, it was a meeting of SNC members from all four Cambodian parties under the chairmanship of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, SNC chairman. Our talks were successful because the Cambodian parties agreed on the electoral system, which we failed to solve at the SNC talks in Phatthaya last month. The clergy and compatriots may still remember that the obstacle then was the Phnom Penh side's refusal to abide by the UN draft agreement, which proposes election in our country according to a system called proportional representation system in which our whole Cambodia would be a constituency with each party standing as candidates for the people to choose. This is contrary to the idea of the Phnom Penh side which favors election in constituencies arguing that that this is our country's habit. However, this habit is not in conformity with the United Nations and the five major powers whose task is to organize the election in our country. At that time, Phnom Penh insisted on using this electoral system. If we go along with this system—I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots that this system is usually used in countries with only one party, such as in communist countries. According to this system, each candidate stands in a constituency. However, to choose the first assembly, this is not proper because there could be injustice. The party with a minority of votes can also control the assembly while the party with the majority of votes could not have seats in the assembly.

For this reason, our party, the KPNLF, refused and insisted on going along with the United Nations and the five major powers. These countries, which are the ones organizing the election, have said that if election is done nationwide without fixed constituencies, vote rigging can be avoided and those who could be included in the constitutional assembly can come from various political tendencies. This is why our front supports this system. Phnom Penh's refusal to abide by this was the obstacle in Phatthaya.

However, in New York, because our KPNLF also wants peace quickly for our people, we did not insist on the proposal of the United Nations and the five major powers. We accepted a new proposal put forward by the UN Secretary General's representative, namely the proportional representation electoral system in provinces, according to which parties stand in each province for election. This was accepted and was a success at the 19 September meeting.

Also on this issue, to speed up the talks toward reaching a definitive agreement and avoid wasting too much time, our KPNLF proposed that the PICC cochairmen and the representatives of the five permanent members make some amendments to the text of the old draft agreement dated 26 November 1990 by adding the agreements our Cambodian SNC had reached at the first meeting in Phatthaya, in Beijing, and the second meeting in Phatthaya, and agreements we have reached in New York. This received support and was agreed upon by all parties. This has quickened the pace of the peace process.

The next day, we met with the five major powers, who are the owners of the article: or, in other words, the contract to bring peace to Cambodia. We met with them and explained to them the agreement reached by Cambodians on the points I have reported to you just now. The major powers were happy and welcomed the consensus reached by Cambodians. They specified some points, particularly the decision on who has the right to decide on issues in Cambodia in the event the SNC cannot reach a consensus.

The clergy and compatriots may still remember that all the SNC members have equal rights; if one member objects, a decision cannot be taken. This causes difficulties in practice when we have to carry out tasks to solve our nation's vital problems. In Phatthaya, all of us agreed to let Samdech Norodom Sihanouk decide. However, he [words indistinct] when he is unable to decide, there should be an organization to make the decision. Finally, all of us agreed that in such an event, only the

UN representative can decide when the samdech [words indistinct] because he is ill or not in the country, or because of various obstacles making the samdech unable to decide because of disagreement among the SNC members. This represents another development assuring the United Nations before they dispatch troops and mission to supervise the cease-fire, as well as the implementation of agreement on election in Cambodia.

[Ieng Muli] Also on this issue, I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots that the five major powers did not object to our decision to keep 30 percent of troops—these troops should be in cantonments and their weapons put under UN control. Earlier, in the five major powers' draft agreement, it was proposed that all, 100 percent, troops be demobilized. However, because Phnom Penh objects, there was no objection from the major powers. However, the latter request that we dissolve the troops before or after the elections. If these troops are not dissolved, they should be included in a new army set up by the new government, which results from the election. These are the major points we achieved with the five major powers yesterday.

Today we met with all members, 19 altogether, who attended the PICC to solve the Cambodian problem in 1989. Today, they met to listen the reports by the representatives of France and Indonesia, cochairmen of the conference, to explain the process and the latest development in the search for peace for our country and nation. The meeting was successful. No country raised any issues or objections to the agreement we have reached. Thus, from now on, we hope that the Paris conference could be reconvened at the end of October, on 31 October 1991, as the day on which to sign the peace agreement for our country.

From then on, the United Nations will start sending personnel to our country, and in particular, the SNC with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as chairman, will go to our motherland on 14 November 1991, if the Paris conference proceedings are successful.

I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots that if all of us compromise, love peace, and want to help solve and alleviate our people's suffering from the current destructive war, I believe that on 31 October we will sign an agreement and peace will return to our Cambodia. Before this signing, a meeting of the coordinating committee might be convened on 28, 29, or 30 October.

This is the gist of information I am glad to report to the clergy and compatriots, with the hope that genuine peace will come to our country.

Khieu Samphan Discusses SNC Meeting Results

BK2409032091 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 23 Sep 91

["Text" of "interview of Vice President Khieu Samphan by the representatives of the Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea and the Voice of Democratic Kampuchea on the outcome of the Supreme National Council's meeting in New York"—dated 22 September; read by announcers]

[Text] [Question] Our respects to Mr. Vice President. Has the New York meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] ended completely? What is the result?

[Answer] This SNC meeting held in New York under the chairmanship of SNC Chairman Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, has ended completely. We achieved new, good results by successfully settling the final remaining issue, that is, the electoral system. The SNC has decided to undertake an electoral system of proportional representation on a provincial level.

[Question] What should be done next?

[Answer] The problems that the SNC must settle in order to bring about a comprehensive agreement to end the war in Cambodia have already been resolved. On 31 October, the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] will be held in order to solemnly sign the comprehensive agreement on ending the war in Cambodia.

The convening of this PICC had been officially decided upon when the SNC met with all PICC member countries on the afternoon of 21 September 1991.

On the morning of 21 September, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the two PICC cochairmen met in order to arrange the dispatch of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to Cambodia as soon as possible. The first group of 200 UN personnel will shortly be sent to Cambodia. Thereafter, the second and third batches will be sent successively until there are sufficient numbers of UN personnel, both civilian and military, for carrying out the comprehensive supervisory role.

It should be noted that on 20 September, the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk held a meeting with the five UNSC permanent members and two PICC cochairmen and reached a clear decision on the cooperation between the SNC and the UNTAC in implementing and monitoring the implementation of the comprehensive agreement.

[Question] Mr. Vice President, please sum up the results of the successive meetings of the SNC for the information of our people and compatriots.

[Answer] The results of the SNC meetings held successively under the chairmanship of SNC Chairman Samdech Norodom Sihanouk can be summed up as follows:

1. The success in the establishment of the SNC with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as its chairman;

2. The decision to dismantle the armed forces of the four Cambodian factions by at least 70 percent and to disarm

the remaining 30 percent—with their arms handed over to the United Nations—and put them in camps under the UN supervision.

3. The decision to hold an election under the UN arrangement and supervision on the basis of the abovemention electoral system.

4. The SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the UNTAC, which comprises both civilian and military personnel, will cooperate in monitoring the implementation of all agreements, particularly the implementation of the above-mentioned major decisions.

[Question] Thank you, Mr. Vice President. Do you have anything to say to our people and the fraternal Cambodian soldiers and administrators who have been forced by Vietnam to serve its war of aggression in Cambodia?

[Answer] I am very glad to inform our aunts, uncles, grandmothers, grandfathers, and all our people both inside and outside the country about all these results. It is certain that our country is to be liberated. We are definitely going to enjoy peace and national independence, and national reconciliation is going to be achieved. All of this is the result of the arduous struggle waged by our nation and people, the three Cambodian national resistance forces, and all Cambodian patriots both inside and outside the country.

However, the implementation of the comprehensive agreement is a big task for us to carry out. Therefore, our nation and people, the three Cambodian national resistance forces, and all Cambodian patriots inside and outside the country must continue joining forces so as to enable the implementation of this comprehensive agreement to be carried out correctly and completely in all aspects.

On this occasion, I would like call on all fraternal Cambodian soldiers and administrative officials installed by the Vietnamese in villages, communes, and all other sectors to stop serving the Vietnamese aggressors, to stop arresting and oppressing our people, and to stop surrounding villages in order to force the children of our people to serve in the army, because there is now an agreement to end the war and restore national reconciliation. Cambodian soldiers should no longer serve the Vietnamese in fighting their own fellow Cambodians. Administrative officials should no longer surround villages to recruit people's children to serve in the army or do any other work. You should desert the Vietnamese and join the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the UNTAC in monitoring the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia. Just let the Cambodian people decide their own destiny through a genuinely free election to be held under the UN supervision. You should come over to join the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk so as to bring about genuine national reconciliation among all Cambodian nationals, without bickering, without tearing at each other's throats, and without blue, white, or red. There will be just Cambodians who are united and reconciled. This is in order to restore peace and stability in our national society within the framework of an independent, peaceful, and neutral Cambodia with does not have the Vietnamese aggressor forces on its soil.

Philippines

Communist Rebels Declare 'Renewed War' on U.S.

HK2409062691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0613 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Manila, Sept 24 (AFP)—The communist New People's Army (NPA) Tuesday declared renewed war on the U.S. and Philippine Governments after American troops refused to leave the country despite the absence of a bases treaty.

The NPA high command said in a statement sent to news agencies that it was ordering its estimated 15,000 guerrillas nationwide to "again launch military offensives across the country," focusing on "U.S. imperialism."

Eight U.S. servicemen and civilian personnel have been assassinated by the NPA since 1987.

"The NPA must aim the most severe blows and punishment at U.S. imperialism, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Aquino regime, and all its accomplices," it said.

It accused President Corazon Aquino's government of "betraying" the decision of the Philippine Senate "and the country" to "put an end to the existence of U.S. military bases in our country."

"We truly have no choice but to return to armed and unarmed struggle in order to attain national freedom and democracy, and punish the traitors to the country," the statement said.

Air Force Officer From Clark Base Said Shot

HK2409101891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 24 Sep 91

[By Roberto Coloma]

[Excerpts] Manila, Sept 24 (AFP)—The Philippine Government, facing a fresh escalation of war with communist guerrillas, said Tuesday it was pursuing peace talks with rebel soldiers as a political impasse over U.S. bases in the country continued.

The communist New People's Army (NPA) threatened new attacks on U.S. targets after President Corazon Aquino provisionally extended the bases' lease, and Washington refused to pull out, despite the absence of a new treaty.

The Philippine Senate threw out a new 10-year base treaty with the United States last week, but Aquino called for a referendum to challenge the decision. U.S. officials said they were awaiting the outcome of the dispute.

Accusing Aquino of treachery and acting like a U.S puppet, the NPA said in a statement sent to news agencies Tuesday that it was ordering its guerrillas to "again launch military offensives across the country." [passage omitted]

As the NPA statement was issued, suspected NPA guerrillas shot dead a Philippine Air Force intelligence officer off Clark Air Base.

Lieutenant Demetrio Manlulu, 33, was in a friend's house in Mabalacat town in the northern province of Pampanga when three unidentified men armed with handguns barged in and fired at him. [passage omitted]

As the NPA called for renewed war, Philippine authorities said prospects were bright for a political settlement with military rebels following secret meetings with fugitive coup leader Gregorio Honasan.

House Speaker Ramon Mitra confirmed Tuesday that he met with Honasan for "exploratory conversations" on ways by which the rebels can turn themselves in "without any diminution of their sense of honor."

Mitra, who represented the government in failed peace talks with communist insurgents in 1986, said, "I regard the prospects for a succesful outcome as good" since "we are talking to professional soldiers."

Mitra issued the statement after he and Armed Forces Chief General Lisandro Abadia, who has also confirmed meeting Honasan, briefed Aquino on the progress of their efforts.

Military sources said Honasan, a former Army colonel, would only turn himself in if it was not portrayed as a surrender, and if lower-ranking officers who joined the uprisings he led would be freed.

Abadia said after the meeting with Aquino that one possibility was for Honasan to put himself under his "custody" while facing charges for leading two bloody coup attempts against Aquino in 1987 and 1989. [passage omitted]

Abadia said the manhunt against Honasan will be suspended "for as long as the dialogue continues with Speaker Mitra."

Editorial Comments on Cease-Fire Situation

HK2409034991 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 24 Sep 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Opportunity Lost"]

[Text] Reports over the weekend seem to indicate that we can now forget all about the unilateral declaration of a cease-fire by the National Democratic Front [NDF] almost two weeks ago. Last Saturday, the NDF called an end to the truce. Presumably it's now back to murder and mayhem as usual with every chance soldier or rebel gets to kill or maim one another.

With a dispatch we would have liked to see applied to other urgent problems, Gen. Lisandro Abadia branded the short-lived NDF peace initiative as nothing more than a gimmick, a propaganda ploy intended to stiffen the senators' resolve to reject the base treaty and make rejection worthwhile.

"We were expecting it," the Armed Forces chief of staff said quite smugly after hearing of the NDF's termination of their order. The general apparently forgot that the NDF had declared a ceasefire a few days after the Senate foreign affairs committee voted to reject the treaty on Sept 9. The NDF "gimmick" was probably made with more sincerity than the poor excuse of a response it later got from the government.

With the withdrawal of the NDF's truce offer, Director General Cesar Nazareno of the old Philippine Constabulary, now misleadingly called the Philippine National Police, has ordered the intensification of the anti-insurgency campaign. Yesterday, for instance, Nazareno directed the provincial commander of Northern Samar to rid his area of communist rebels within 45 days under pain of losing his post. He set a quota of one encounter a month for every PNP company in an attempt to shortern the timetable for liquidating the insurgency.

All this simply undescores the seemingly insurmountable odds against a peaceful resolution of the communist insurgency. In this latest excursion into the possibility of ending the 22-year insurgency, the government abdicated its lead role by responding with suspicion and little else. Thus a rare opportunity to restart the peace process that was aborted five years ago was lost.

Certainly there are good reasons for the mutual distrust and reluctance to consider any resolution other than the surrender of one party to the other. The blood debts and the hatreds have grown to almost irremediable proportions. But we have seen no fruitful outcomes from this attitude, only grief and more grief and the dubious distinction of being the only Asian country with a serious insurgency problem. This goal of total victory will obviously not bring us the peace we crave.

Everything that can be said for or against the insurgency has become an abiding part of the national lore for so long. Although the ideological underpinnings of the insurgency have been removed with the collapse of communist monoliths in Europe and the Soviet Union, the Philippine insurgency continues and our Armed Forces is perpetually on alert, giving the lie to grossly exaggerated reports of the impending demise of the local communist movement.

This reality should spur policymakers to consider ways of reincorporating the insurgents into the body politic in the same manner that the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] leadership is working for reconciliation in its ranks. In this endeavor, the military cannot be given the lead although it should certainly be an integral part of it. Safeguards have to be adopted to ensure honesty in the proceedings such as an independent monitoring body that will ensure that terms of a ceasefire are strictly followed.

In the morning of the triumph of people power, we were all fired by the limitless possibilities of a changed way of doing things for ourselves. The first time the insurgency problem was directly addressed resulted in failure. But that effort left lessons that can be put to good use when once again we consider, as we must, how Filipinos can at last live with fellow Filipinos in peace.

Differences of Opinion on Bases Issue Continue

'Mock Withdrawal' Said Unethical

HK2309084091 Quezon City MALAYA in English 22 Sep 91 p 1, 2

[By Romy Tangbawan and Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] Sen Rene Saguisag (LP) said yesterday government officials behind the plan for a "mock withdrawal" of U.S. troops in the country are violating the Ethical Standards Act.

"If what they are planning is true, then they are being dishonest to the people," he said.

Saguisag was commenting on the plan of the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] to issue a new notice of termination to the U.S. government so as to project a "withdrawal move."

As envisioned, the U.S. government will time its supposed pullout with the completion of the planned referendum being sought by the government and pro-bases senators to reverse the Senate decision which rejected the bases treaty.

The plan was contained in a memorandum for Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus dated last Sept 19.

Malacanang sources quoted Manglapus' memorandum as saying: "As the notice of termination will give the United States a withdrawal period of one year, it may be filed tomorrow and we could go through with the contemplated referendum while the U.S. forces remain in the Philippines."

"If the referendum results favorably," it said, "the notice of termination would be rendered academic either by the ratification of the treaty as a result of the referendum or through the process of resubmitting it to the Senate and obtaining the required concurence."

The memorandum, however, said the cooperation of the U.S. government is necessary for the scenario to materialize.

Saguisag said he has not seen the memorandum but noted that the plan to deceive the people constitutes "dishonesty."

The DFA justified the planned "mock withdrawal" with the need to maintain the U.S. Navy's operations at the Subic naval station to maintain the jobs of Filipino base workers." As it is obviously to the interest to preserve the fiscal year 1992 appropriation for the Philippines, there should be an understanding that the U.S. executive branch will 'protect' the said appropriation," it said.

According to the DFA, the U.S. Congress will appropriate funds for the Subic naval station only if it is in operation. But if the U.S. Navy is withdrawing from the base even for a one-year period, no appropriation will be granted.

The DFA has reconsidered its plan to serve a new notice of termination of the 1947 RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement as Malacanang remained undecided on how many years to give the U.S. forces to withdraw, a diplomatic source said.

"No termination notice was sent today," the source said.

This was confirmed by U.S. Embassy Spokesman Stanley Schrager.

When asked if any notice of termination was sent to the embassy today, he replied, "Not that I know of."

A Malacanang source said Friday that Foreign Secretay Raul S. Manglapus recommended to Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon that a new termination notice be filed yesterday.

The source said the plan to serve the new notice of termination was based on the premise that the Philippine government wants U.S. forces to be out of the country by one year. The source said the Philippine bases panel's opinion was that U.S. military forces in the Philippines should be in a "withdrawal mode" once the termination notice is given and they have one year to complete the process.

Schrager said what they understand is that they have one year to complete the withdrawal of their forces and they can commence anytime within the one-year period.

Manglapus officially withdrew last Monday the termination notice served on May 15, 1990 and adopted the U.S. interpretation of the Ramos-Rusk agreement that American military forces have one year to withdraw after Sept 16, 1991.

Resignation Threats Withdrawn

HK2409032791 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Three of the four members of the cabinet decided to stay in the government after Malacanang changed its position on the issues of the bases treaty and the referendum. Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon said that he, along with Department of Natural Resources Secretary Florencio Factoran and Tourism Secretary Rafael Alunan, will not resign from their posts after talking with President Aquino yesterday. During their meeting, the three secretaries stressed to Mrs. Aquino the real situation of the U.S. forces in the country after the Senate junked the new treaty. Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Garrucho was not able to attend the meeting as he is reportedly abroad.

The four members of the cabinet strongly disagreed with the proposal to hold a referendum and they were reported to be meeting at the Tourism Building to carry out their plans to resign in the event that there would be pressure from Malacanang. The three secretaries lauded the study conducted by President Aquino on the two resolutions pending with the Senate outlining the withdrawal arrangements for the U.S. forces from the military bases in the country. The meeting was called by President Aquino in order to abort the uprising by the cabinet members against her plan to save the junked Republic of the Philippines-U.S. bases treaty.

Aquino 'Ready To Compromise'

HK2309023391 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Congressmen welcomed President Aquino's declaration that she is ready to compromise with senators regarding the setting of the time frame for the orderly withdrawal of the U.S. military bases. According to the congressmen, a constitutional crisis and the polarization of the Philippine people will be avoided if the referendum on the military bases is pushed through.

Gonzalez on Planned U.S. Visit

HK2309113591 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Senator Neptali Gonzalez explained that his primary reason for going to Washington along with Senators Edgardo Angara and Heherson Alvarez is to hand the personal letter of President Cory Aquino to the U.S. Government, so as to maintain the historic ties and friendly relations with the United States in spite of the rejection by the Senate of the Republic of the Philippines [RP]-U.S. Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Security.

According to Senator Gonzalez, the aim of their trip is to avoid a possible misunderstanding between the Philippines and the United States which may affect the aid we receive in exchange for the military bases' stay. Here is a part of Senator Neptali Gonzalez's statement:

[Begin Gonzalez recording, broadcast in progress] ...rejection of the RP-U.S. Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Security, the Philippines and its people would still like to maintain the historical ties and friendship of our two countries and their citizens. That is the principal reason for sending us. [end recording]

Aquino: Referendum 'Primary Goal'

HK2409010491 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] President Corazon Aquino stressed that the primary goal of the government is still holding a referendum. This is despite her decision that the private sector should be the one to gather the 3.5 million signatures which will support the bid for a referendum to reverse the decision made by the Senate on the Republic of the Philippines-U.S. bases treaty.

The president explained that they are now concentrating on an acceptable time period for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the country. She made this statement after meeting with the two antibases Senators Rene Saguisag and Orlando Mercado. Although she was in favor of the post-rejection proposals, Mrs. Aquino said that they would first need the approval of the private sector. However, the president admitted that she is more in favor of Senator Joey Lina's proposal for a seven year withdrawal period without pay but which helps the country's economy.

Mrs. Aquino also said that she is ready to discuss with pro and antibases senators any compromise on the controversial issue of the U.S. bases, including holding a referendum. With this, the president also clarified that the campaign to gather signatures will be exclusively carried out by the private sector.

Meanwhile, President Aquino said that she is now considering the possibility of sending again to the United States a new notice of termination for the American forces in the country. The president ascertained that the submission of a new notice of termination would be done in the near future. Prior to this, the government withdrew its notice of termination from the United States after the Senate junked the new treaty allowing the retention of the U.S. bases in the Philippines after the 1947 bases agreement ended. At the same time, Mrs. Aquino admitted responsibility for the withrawal of the notice of termination which was given to Washington last year. This step by Mrs. Aquino was to dismiss Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon's accusation that Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez was responsible for the government's decision to withdraw the notice of termination.

Salonga Backs 3-Year Withdrawal

HK2409024891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0228 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Manila, Sept 24 (AFP)—Eight senators are to ask President Corazon Aquino to order American troops to pull out of the Philippines not later than two years after a one-year grace ending September 16, 1992, Senate President Jovito Salonga said Tuesday.

Salonga, the leader of the Senate majority which rejected a new 10-year U.S. leasing agreement on Subic Naval Base last week, said that if Aquino agreed to it, the group will file a resolution "authorizing the president to forge a modus vivendi" with Washington.

Aquino agreed Sunday to discuss proposals for an orderly American withdrawal following the September 16, 1991 expiry of the current military bases agreement, after initially rejecting the Senate vote and vowing to take the issue to a referendum.

Aquino rescinded last week a termination notice served on U.S. troops last year, thus implementing an "automatic renewal" of the old leasing agreement unless either side decides to terminate it.

But Salonga told the Makati Business Club, an influential big business lobby, that the legal status of the U.S. facilities were "in limbo now," and they should no longer enjoy "immunities and tax exemptions" accorded them under the lapsed accord.

He said eight senators, who were among the 12 who voted against the new base treaty, deemed a seven-year pullout that appears to be favored by Aquino as "totally unacceptable" to the anti-treaty majority in the Senate.

Aquino on Sunday welcomed the seven-year pullout proposal, endorsed by her supporters in the Senate who had earlier voted for the new treaty.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution vests the sole treaty-ratifying powers on the Senate. [passage omitted]

Manglapus Expresses Optimism

HK2409023591 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus expressed optimism that the Americans will agree with the Senate's proposal for a three-year withdrawal period without any payment. However, Manglapus said that even if the United States agreed, the proposal still has to be passed as a treaty. At the moment, the Philippines has not yet given the United States the notice of termination for the bases which have only one more year to remain in the country. Washington continues to hope that the Senate will ratify Senator Rene Saguisag's proposal for a three-year withdrawal period. Manglapus clarified that the submission of a new notice of termination to the United States will depend on what happens in the Senate.

Enrile: U.S. Forces' Stay Illegal

HK2409051591 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 24 Sep 91 pp 1, 2

[By Ros Manglangit and Mariquit Almario]

[Text] Senate Minority Leader Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday said there was no legal basis—either constitutional or contractual—for United States military facilities to stay in the Philippines after the Senate rejection of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Security.

In other developments:

—President Aquino is not abandoning her call for a referendum and the signature gathering campaign will be launched next Thursday. The Thursday launching was revealed by Speaker Ramon Mitra.

"While our main thrust continues to be the call for a referendum spearheaded by the private sector, we are always willing to talk to anyone, especially the senators who may have possible compromise positions," Mrs Aquino told Malacanang reporters.

—Senator Victor Ziga (LP) [Liberal Party] called on Mrs Aquino to immediately stop "any and all moves to call a referendum on the rejected bases treaty" and urged the immediate implementation of a bases conversion plan.

—Senator Jose Lina Jr., a pro-bases senator who is now pushing for a seven-year phaseout plan, said a three-year period was too tight and too short a time for the effective implementation of a bases conversion program and alternative plans for the rehabilitation of devastated Central Luzon.

A three-year phaseout period is the proposal of pro-Aquino anti-bases senators led by Senator Rene Saguisag who is pushing for a three-year pullout without compensation.

—Speaker Ramon Mitra said he was waiting for Malacanang and the Senate to reach a compromise "within 24 hours" on the bases issue before deciding whether or not to support the referendum proposal. Mitra had first advocated the referendum on the bases, but in a recent turnaround announced he was going to try to prevail on Mrs. Aquino to desist from pushing through the initiative/referendum option to overturn the Senate rejection of the treaty.

Mitra also said he favored a three-year pullout but with compensation unlike the Saguisag proposal which called for a three-year pullout without compensation.

—Representative Lorna Verano-Yap (LP, Pasay City) urged Mrs Aquino to "lay off the referendum issue" and instead referee a split between her two economic advisers on the more important issue of "should government spend more now?"

In a press statement, Enrile deplored the continued stay of United States troops and facilities in the country, saying in the absence of any agreement or law allowing such extended stay, U.S. troops were in the Philippines as an occupying power.

"So their presence here is outside of any international agreement. They are here at the sufference of the Filipino people, or at worst as an occupying power," the senator said.

"At present, there is no law governing relations between the United States and the Philippines. Even the Ramos-Rusk Agreement may no longer be invoked since it has been terminated together with the 1947 mother treaty," Enrile noted.

He added a proposed amendment of the 1987 Constitution would not help since there was already a violation of the Charter because of the continued defiance of its provision.

In view of these considerations, the senator urged the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops and facilities pending negotiations. "The United States has to comply; otherwise, it would be openly intruding into the Constitution," he stressed.

The senator also called on Mrs Aquino to govern the country in line with the clear mandate of the Constitution.

"Is she (Mrs Aquino) going to openly enforce a terminated international agreement and respect her Constitution as well? Can she do this at the same time? Evidently not," Enrile stressed. He added that Mrs Aquono must make her choice now—either to enforce the terminated agreement or to consider the agreement terminated "so as to enforce her Constitution."

Enrile also pointed out that in the absence of any international agreement governing the continued stay of U.S. troops and facilities in the Philippines, "their operations must now be governed by Philippine laws."

The senator said as a result of the operation of Philippine laws in U.S. military facilities throughout the country, all PX (post exchange) goods entering U.S. facilities must be subject to Philippine customs laws and accordingly taxed; the entry of personel must be subject to immigration laws; their health conditions must be under quarantine laws; and their employer-employe relations must now be governed by Philippine labor laws.

He added that should there be a violation of the country's criminal laws, all U.S. military personnel in the Philippines would be subject to the provisions of the Revised Penal Code.

"All these privileges and immunities were earlier provided under the old agreement. But now, they have been terminated by operation of the 1987 Constitution," he said.

Batting for Senate Resolution No. 1268 which he filed last Friday and which was supported by five other senators seeking a phaseout not later than June 12, 1998, the centennial of Philippine Independence, Lina said it was highly improbable to implement within a short period other alternative proposals including transferring the country's military camps or putting up an international airport.

Should the Lina resolution be passed, the phaseout covering a maximum of about six years and eight months would be conducted while the Philippine government during such period prepares and implements conversion plans, programs and alternatives to address the problems plaguing Central Luzon as a result of Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions.

"The time for debate is over," said Lina. "The Senate has already rejected the treaty. What should be done now is activate the Bases Conversion Plan in order to accelerate and expedite American withdrawal. The faster Subic is vacated, the easier it will be to start conversion and the faster we can move toward full recovery."

"What I want to see at this time is an agreement on a formula that will permit us to put this whole issue behind us and move on to once again speaking with one voice to our American friends," Mitra said.

The House of Representatives, he said, will hold a caucus on the referendum proposal to find out if majority of the congressmen would support Mrs. Aquino's signature campaign to be launched on Thursday.

Mrs. Aquino was insistent on invoking the Initiative and Referendum Act or RA [Republic Act] 6735 to revive the rejected bases treaty in a referendum.

Under RA6735, 12 percent of the total registered voters in the country, and three percent of the voters per district must sign a petition calling for a referendum.

Yap in a statement pointed out that the "way of the economic cross" was vastly more urgent and important, considering these reports.

1) The National Economic and Development Authority headed by Dr. Cayetano Paderanga advocated that the government should now spend up to programmed levels to prop up the economy.

By spending on infrastructure, which has been the saving grace of the economy in recent times, more jobs could be created, productivity increased, and consumer spending assured.

2) Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao has been sitting down on some P [Philippine peso] 7 billion intended for public expenditure for fear of inflation, which spells failure to meet the requirements of the International Monetary Fund unless Congress passes more revenue measures to fill the gap created by the expected P10-billion loss due to the departure of American military facilities and personnel from Philippine soil.

"To spend or not to spend seems to be the question that Mrs. Aquino must face now," the statement said.

Yap explained that the budget passed by Congress factored in the program of expenditures.

"It is as if Secretary Estanislao were hardheaded in trying to blackmail Congress into overtaxing the people, instead of getting his people in the Bureau of Internal

Revenue, the Bureau of Customs, and even the casinos to earn more and press the profligate agencies of the government like the National Power Corporation to spend loss on luxury items like Pajeros," she added.

Yap said Mrs. Aquino's concern with the bases now should be how soon she could "get rid of the Americans and not how to prolong their stay with the promises of an expensive and divisive referendum of dubious legality and constitutionality."

"They talked so much about 12 senators voting for the 60 million Filipinos, but forget that the veto of the President is worse, because it is one vote against the Congress, which represents the people," she said.

Meanwhile, pro-bases Senator Heherson Alvarez, in a phone call to Manila from Washington DC, yesterday denied that his U.S. trip shortly after the Senate decided on the bases treaty was financed by the U.S. government as insinuated allegedly by Enrile.

He said through spokesman Jolly Nacino his trip was primarily to meet with United Nations officals to consult on the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil. Alvarez is the chairman of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources.

"I would like to assure not only Senator Enrile but also the Filipino people that the U.S. government did not pay a single centavo for my trip nor did I receive any favor" from Washington, Alvarez said.

Alvarez left for the U.S. with three pro-bases senators, but their hurried departure had triggered many speculations in Manila about the nature of their trip, one of which was that they were out to console U.S. authorities on the defeat of the bases treaty, with an assurance that the Senate vote did not lay to rest the accord. With him in the U.S. are Senators Neptali Gonzales and Edgardo Angara.

Bello: U.S. Forces' Stay 'Legal'

HK2409112791 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The Department of Justice [DOJ] appealed today for a just interpretation of a constitutional provision regarding the retention of the military bases in the country. This is after the expiration of the 1947 military bases agreement last 16 September. At the same time, Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello reiterated his department's position that the continued use of the bases by the U.S. troops has a legal basis. Ron Bayani has the details:

[Begin recording] [Bayani] The DOJ stressed that the two sides were obliged under the 1988 Manglapus-Shultz memorandum of agreement to implement some measures to ensure an orderly transition. In an ambush interview, Bello again stressed the position of the DOJ, saying that the continued stay of the military bases in the country has a legal basis.

[Bello] Their continued stay has a legal basis.

[Bayani] The DOJ noted that even the 12 anti-bases treaty senators agreed on a phase-out or pull-out period so that the United States can withdraw their bases from the country. [end recording]

Malacanang's Moves Analyzed

HK2309064291 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 23 Sep 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Traitorous 'Solution'"]

[Text] Malacanang's trial balloons are now all about a longer withdrawal period for U.S. military forces in the Philippines. Following the loud outcry against the referendum scheme—a blatant bid, if we ever saw one, to overturn the Senate's rejection of the new base treaty—the idea of a prolonged phaseout is now being peddled as a tenable alternative. As we see it, a Palace squeeze- play may be in the offing to condition the public into accepting, in no other state but resignation, either the referendum or the long good bye to the Americans, or picking the better choice of two bad ones.

One maneuver is for President Aquino's officials—while appearing to reel back from the breadth and intensity of public opposition to a referendum—to garner a majority support in the Senate to a plan to keep the Americans at Subic Naval Base by stretching their withdrawal over a period of as much as seven years. Under this scheme, the Americans can stay on the authority of a more executive agreement, a treaty supposedly being unnecessary.

The other move is to proceed full steam ahead with the gathering of at least three million signatures to pave the way for the holding of the referendum. Palace spinners say politicians, businessmen and non-government organizations [NGO's] are joining hands and pooling their resources for the effort. At a closed-door meeting last Saturday, pro-base senators, the heads of the Filipino-American and the Filipino-Chinese businessmen's associations and the NGO's hammered out the final details for the launching of the signature drive next week.

An organizer said the campaign would determine "what our strengths are, where our people are" although at most, the referendum could only exert a strong moral pressure on senators to reconsider the dead treaty.

We can only suppose that public opinion is being steamrolled over the clearly futile referendum exercise for an ulterior objective, and that is to make the protracted U.S. withdrawal a more palatable option for the anti-base sectors.

It's also clever of the President's men to disguse the long phaseout decision as a compromise between the anti- and pro-base senators when the truth is that it is all a Palace public relations tactic. Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani said Ms. Aquino was open to a three- to seven-year phaseout of Subic, referring to Sen. Rene Saguisag's three-year proposal and that of Sen. Jose Lina Jr. for a seven-year term. Shahani said the pros werre not "trying to enter the backyard; we are not thinking of ratification anymore" but of a U.S. withdrawal arrangement that is reasonable.

After meeting with the President the other day, Speaker Ramon V. Mitra revealed that she would abandon her referendum move if the Senate could agree on an "acceptable formula" for a fixed withdrawal period. "That is why we are working hard to find a common denominator," Mitra said while hinting at pro- and antibase factions arriving at a "solution" in the next few days. then he said: "The proposed three-year and seven-year withdrawal periods are not really far between; they are close. And the opposing minds are coming to terms."

The Speaker's and the others' words and efforts are so much spit against a storm. There is a third solution, one that most Filipinos consider as the most palatable of all. And that is to carry out an immediate U.S. pullout. The base treaty is dead and buried. The sooner the President and all her men come to terms with this, the faster we can close the book on the bases controversy and get on with our lives.

Suspension of Westinghouse Debt Payments Urged

HK2409034091 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Senator Teofisto Guigona asked the president to suspend debt payments on the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant contract in view of the prima facie evidence that the contract is ridden with anomalies. Guigona stressed that interest payments paid to the Westinghouse Corporation alone amount to $300 million per day. [sentence as heard] The request to suspend debt payments on the nuclear plant was made by Guigona after the New Jersey Federal Court ruled that there were anomalies in the contract for the construction of the plant.

In a news conference, Guigona said that the government has already spent around P [Philippine pesos] 1.12 billion for debt service in 1989, and P5.03 billion last year. According to the senator, we are paying $2.2 billion for an anomalous contract which is really only worth half of that.

Security Measure Preparation Begun for 1992 Poll

HK2309071191 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Sep 91 p 20

[By Aris R. Ilagan]

[Text] Acting Defense Secretary Renato S. De Villa has ordered Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, to submit a comprehensive assessment of the peace and order situation nationwide that would allow the military to formulate security measures for next year's elections.

In a memorandum to the various bureaus of the Department of National Defense (DND), De Villa ordered all civilian and military personnel of the Department of National Defense (DND) to maintain strict neutrality in the polls.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) had earlier listed potential "hot spots" in the country to be under close supervision of the military and police units to be deputized by the Comelec.

Of the country's 73 provinces, 24 were considered by the Comelec potential "hot spots."

The Comelec identified possible "hot spots" on the basis of insurgency problems, presence of political warlords, secessionist rebellion, immature political attitudes of residents, and intense rivalry among supporters of candidates.

The Comelec said that of the 24 provinces identified as "hot spots," 10 are in Mindanao region, six in the Visayas, and eight in Luzon.

"The assessment should include a list of potential hot spots and or critical areas and the reasons for such assessment. The assessment will be on a monthly bases thereafter," De Villa told Abadia.

The AFP was instructed to formulate security plans, detailing the role of the military in the elections, including the establishment and manning of operations centers and liaison offices.

De Villa said the AFP should be prepared to deploy its Comelec-deputized regular and reserve forces.

Among the government personnel who were warned against politicking by De Villa are the Government Arsenal, National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP), and Office of Civil Defense (OCD).

"The DND's job is the maintenance of security and stability in the country," De Villa said.

Politicians Reportedly Involved in Illegal Drugs

HK2309093291 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Eight politicians alleged to give protection to big drug syndicates reportedly come from the provinces of Ilocos and Aparri and Cebu City. According to a high official of Quezon City or the Quezon City Drug Abuse Council, in their continuing coordination with the Narcotics Command headed by General Job Mayo, it was learned that three governors, two vice governors, and three mayors have been giving protection to drug syndicates such as 14-K, Bambaoo Gang, and 16 Valves Gang, for more than a year in exchange for millions of pesos given to them for their additional campaign funds in the 1992 elections.

The official also said that the provinces and city are the unloading points from methamphetamine coming from other countries such as Hong Kong, Thailand, and Taiwan. By keeping kilos of methamphetamine in spare car parts, furniture, or amunitions, the syndicates can bring in 20 to 100 kilos of methamphethamine several times during the week. The source also said that because the minimum price of one kilo of methamphetamine is 165,000 pesos, it is clear that millions of pesos go to politicians as protection money. The authorities are now gathering evidence against the eight politicians allowing themselves to be used by big drug syndicates.

Mitra Admits Meeting Rebel Soldiers' Leaders

HK2309132891 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0955 GMT 23 Sep 91

[By Jennifer Postigo]

[Text] House Speaker Mitra has admitted he was with the executive staff of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union headed by renegade Colonel Gringo Honasan for four hours today. Commodore Calajate, Major Turingan, and Colonel Abaya also attended the meeting. The meeting, which ended at about 1200, focused on how to speed up the government's reconciliation efforts with the rebel military members led by Gringo Honasan. Speaker Mitra also mentioned that General Abadia was not aware of this meeting. According to Mitra, it was intentionally his own effort.

Abadia Reportedly Confirms Meeting With Honasan

HK2309112091 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0920 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Interview with correspondent Fernan Imberga by announcer Joe Taruc; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Imberga] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff, has confirmed he had a dialogue with renegade Colonel Gringo Honasan, one on one, one month ago inside Camp Aguinaldo. Abadia, however, refused to give details of what they had talked about, but said it was within the framework of his efforts for reconciliation within the military ranks.

[Taruc] Fernan, did General Abadia mention anything about a high-ranking government official who spoke with Gringo Honasan a while ago?

[Imberga] He did not mention this. You know, Joe, whenever I tried to ask him something, he always responded briefly. So we were not able to get the sequence of his talk with Colonel Honasan.

[Taruc] Does this mean that General Abadia was not aware of the meeting between the official and Gringo?

[Imberga] No. He said nothing about this. He only reponded to what was asked of him and the response was brief. He also confirmed that he talked with and gave a safe conduct pass to Colonel Red Kapunan. The chief of staff said he also talked to Commodore Domingo Calajate on the telephone. In this regard, Abadia said he will do everything in his capacity to schedule a negotiation with Colonel Honasan in order to stop the military dissension this month. According to Abadia, he is willing to talk to Honasan unaccompanied.

Aquino Supports Talks With Rebel Soldiers

HK2409093191 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] President Cory Aquino supported Chief of Staff General Lisandro Abadia's and Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr.'s talks with the military rebels. The president said the two officials were doing good for achieving a reconciliation between the military side and the government side. Late this morning the president held a meeting with General Abadia and Speaker Mitra after they confirmed that they were able to talk with renegade Colonel Gringo Honasan and other leaders of the Reformed the Armed Forces Movement [RAM]-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union. General Abadia announced in an interview with Loy Caliwan that he was able to have a one-on-one talk with Honasan. Speaker Mitra said yesterday that he had talked with Honasan, Commodore Calajate, and Navy Captain Turingan for four hours. Meanwhile the two officials did not mention what they had discussed and agreed upon with the leaders of RAM. In a related report, Armed Forces chief Lisandro Abadia stressed that he is leaving it up to House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. to head the peace talks between the government and the rebel soldiers. The said announcement was made by Abadia after Mitra revealed that he was able to talk with renegade Colonel Gringo Honasan, former General Domingo Calajate, and Navy Captain Felix Turingan for four hours. Nonetheless, Abadia clarified his action, explaining that he does not hold any grievance against Mitra after the latter interfered with the ongoing talks with the said rebels. The Armed Forces chief stressed that he was delighted with the current situation because Mitra's interference in the said peace talks will bring positive results.

'Unabated Surge' in Prices Said To Weaken Peso

HK2409040591 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 24 Sep 91 p 8

[By Grace C. Sison]

[Text] The unabated surge in the prices of goods and services brought about by the disastrous effects of the Mount Pinatubo eruptions, continued to exert pressure on the consumer's buying power, causing the further weakening of the value of the peso which shrank by almost one-sixth last month.

According to the National Statistics Office [NSO] which monitors the monthly consumer price index of six selected basic goods and services nationwide, the peso's purchasing power plunged to only P [Philippine peso] 0.1674 last month. This means that the peso last month could buy a little over one-sixth of what it could purchase in 1978. Simply put, every consumer needs about

P6 to buy the same goods and service purchased at only P1 during the base year. Using 1978 as base year, the August purchasing peso level marked a sustained downfall of 15.92 percent from the year-ago's P0.1991.

The NSO traced the continued depreciation of the consumer's purchasing power to the unabated rise in the consumer price index. The CPI [Consumer Price Index], which measures the changes in the retail prices of commodities commonly bought by consumers covering all income households, skyrocketed to 597.5 index points in August, a 95.3-point increment from the year-ago's 502.2 points.

NSO Administrator Tomas P. Africa said this development was because of the high index level of the food, beverages and tobacco group which reached 547.5 index points in August, up by 14.61 percent from the previous year's 477.7 points.

The remaining five commodity groupings also reported double digit increments as follows: services (35.29 percent), fuel, light and water (27.64 percent), clothing (19.40 percent), housing and repairs (17.58 percent), and miscellaneous (19.99 percent).

Industry sources on the other hand, attributed the continued drop in the peso's purchasing power to the eruptions of Mount Pinatubo, which had destroyed many agricultural crops, livestock and poultry.

This plus other factors such as the ill effects of the 9 percent import levy, the sustained high prices of oil products, and the hike in power rates and rice prices, caused the inflation rate to soar to 18.98 percent last month.

Thailand

UN Restrictions May Halt Iraqi Rice Deal

BK2409052391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Sep 91 p 26

[Text] An informed source in the pool of nine major rice exporters who returned from Baghdad last week told BUSINESS POST that tough restrictions announced by the United Nations Security Council's Sanctions Committee were the reason for the hitch.

He claimed the restrictions literally would give Washington the bargaining power to press Iraq to switch from buying Thai rice to American rice.

The source also said that despite the fact the UN had released Iraqi assets worth about US$3.7 billion to enable Baghdad to buy food stuffs and essential imports, it had allowed each government holding Iraqi assets to make the final decision on whether to release these assets.

"The US currently holds a huge amount of Iraqi assets, so if American commercial banks refused to release its assets the Iraqi Government would not be able to issue a letter of credit for a planned 200,000-ton shipment of Thai rice," he said.

The Iraqi Government in July agreed to buy 645,000 tons of 15 per cent white rice worth about 5,000 million baht from nine major Thai rice exporters.

The nine rice exporters were Chaiyapon Rice, Soon Hua Seng, Capital Rice, Hong Yeah Seng, Siam Rice Trading, Seng Thong Rice, Huay Chaun Rice, Puay Heng Long and Kit Pon.

Under the agreement, three shipments would be made to Iraq, of which the first 45,000-ton shipment was made in August.

The second shipment of 200,000 tons was to be sent later this year and the remaining 400,000 tons would be shipped next year.

But the second and third shipments were pending as the Baghdad Government could not come up with the money to pay for rice, and the deal now was likely to be scrapped.

In a bid to save the deal, a delegation of members of the nine rice exporters, led by Chaiyapon Rice Co managing director Phaibun Kuansongtram, went to Baghdad early this month to discuss with the Grain Board of Iraq the possibility of seeking an opportunity to resolve the Iraqi Government's financial position.

But the likelihood of success was poor, with the Iraqi Government saying it was having difficulties pushing the Bush administration to urge American commercial banks to release its assets.

Uncertainty over the rice deal had seriously concerned the exporters, who last week called an urgent meeting and agreed to ask the Thai Government to seek permission from the UN to let the Baghdad Government use assets frozen by American commercial banks to buy the rice.

"If the deal is scrapped it could have an adverse impact on Thai rice, because it would suddenly cut a huge demand for Thai rice," he said.

The source said the current shortage of foodstuffs in Baghdad was very serious. Not only did Baghdad lack a supply of direct imports from Thailand, but smuggled imports from Jordan also had been cut because of tough UN conditions.

Status of China's Reemerging Economy Examined

BK2409041391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Sep 91 p 4

[Editorial: "China Ties—More Than Brotherly Love"]

[Text] More than two years have passed since the Tiananmen Square massacre marked a bloody finale to the economic dynamism that characterised the China of the eighties and ushered in a period of self-induced stagnation as the aging leadership pursued a course which, to the outside world, appeared to have little forward motion. The flight from China of many political dissidents who also happened to be prominent academics and engineers also contributed to this loss of momentum. For a brief period the country appeared to withdrew into a protective shell and there were fears that the enormous gains of the past would be reversed. Fortunately these fears proved groundless and China has regained its vibrancy, economic vitality and stature as a ranking member of the world community. Beijing's tortuous process of self-examination following the martyrdom of the pro-democracy movement came at a time when Thailand's economy was booming, growth was in double digits and the country was basking in the international respectability conferred by an eight-month-old fully democratic government led by an elected prime minister.

Twenty-seven months down the road, democracy is still not a word one associates with China. In Thailand it has metamorphosed into an ideology perhaps more fashionable to refer to in the future tense than actually practise. Yet, despite the enormous changes that have taken place in the last two years and, indeed, since then-prime minister Khukrit Pramot flew to Beijing for the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between the two once-hostile nations on July 1, 1975, the two countries have remained the firmest of friends and trading partners. The basis on which this friendship was founded survived its strongest test in the nine-month witch-hunting interlude before the rightist Thanin Kraiwichian government was relieved of office in 1977.

If the red carpet rolled out for Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun appeared a little more plush than usual it bore testimony to Beijing's remembrance of his behind-the-scenes role as one of the architects of the giant policy shift which paved the way for the normalisation of Sino-Thai relations. After all, remembering old friends is part of an age-old honoured Chinese tradition. Helping to keep bilateral relations on track in those early days following the 1978 invasion of Cambodia by Vietnam was the coincidental convergence of Thailand's and China's strategic interests. Both countries actively sought to get the Vietnamese out and a government of national sovereignty in power in Phnom Penh—an aim which [is] now nearing fruition. Also hopefully now relegated to the scrapheap of history is the use of Thailand as a 'conduit' to ferry arms to the Khmer resistance forces.

Prime Minister Anan, while reciprocating speeches extolling the virtues of Sino-Thai achievements, cannot stress too forcefully that in the future the two countries must focus on working together as equal partners, both in the bilateral and regional context. Bilaterally, there is no longer any need for the rather paternalistic "friendship framework" on the trade and economic fronts. It is time to accept the fact that both countries could emerge—or, indeed, in some cases already have—as serious competitors in world markets on basic items such as low-quality textiles, electronics and everyday commodities. The language used in these discussions should be that of mature economic partners, avoiding head-on competition in world markets where possible and fostering increased bilateral investments.

This increased level of cooperation should also extend to the political and diplomatic field to help foster regional peace and stability. On the Cambodia front, Beijing's significant role in persuading the Khmer Rouge to make concessions is much appreciated. Perhaps additional help could be granted by finding a suitable retreat inside China in which the notorious Pol Pot could be granted permanent refuge. He is certainly not part of the "new Cambodia" and his presence in this region could prove an embarrassment, irritant or worse.

Today's China is one of stock markets, export processing zones and that most capitalist of institutions—the pawnshop. Gone are ping-pong diplomacy, little red books and the all-pervasive communist dogma that M.R. Khukrit and Mr Anan had to contend with when negotiating for the normalisation of relations. Gone too is the need for any subservience or heavy-handedness now that relations have stood the test of time. We will not mourn the passing of the "big brother, little brother" mindset. Full equality in all its aspects is a natural evolvement of a long-standing relationship and Mr Anan need not be "krengjai" [deferential] about making this clear in Beijing.

Prime Minister Anan Visits PRC, Meets Leaders

WA2409111191

For reportage on Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's visit to the PRC, including talks with CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng, and President Yang Shangkun, see the Southeast Asia & Pacific section of the 23 September China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Lao Prime Minister 'Likely' To Visit in Nov

BK2109013091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Sep 91 p A2

[Text] Lao Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon is likely to visit Thailand in November to join his Thai counterpart Anan Panyarachun in presiding over a gound-breaking ceremony to mark the start of construction of the first-ever bridge across the Mekong River, informed sources said.

It will be the first foreign trip for Khamtai after being promoted to the post in the Lao leadership reshuffle last month at the Supreme People's Council congress. His predecessor, Kaysone Phomvihan, now president, visited Thailand last year during the adminstration of former Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

The sources said Laotian Ambassador to Thailand Bounkeut Sangsomsak met with Foreign Ministry officials yesterday to prepare for the visit but a date has yet to be fixed.

It was not clear whether his trip would be extended to include activities other than the event in Nong Khai province, according to the sources.

Australia, the donor of the bridge, will send senior officials to witness the event in the northeast province. The bridge from Nong Khai will cross over to Laos' Tha Naleng, about 10 km south of the Laotian capital of Vientiane.

Last Flood Relief Shipment Leaves for Cambodia

BK2409014191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Sep 91 p A4

[Excerpt] Thailand yesterday dispatched the last 900-tonne consignment of the Bt [bhat] 10-million emergency aid to flood victims in Cambodia.

The consignment was loaded on a C. Express freighter, which is scheduled to leave Thailand for Cambodia on Saturday, said a press release from the Foreign Ministry. The freighter is expected to arrive in Phnom Penh port next Tuesday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun flew to Phnom Penh on Sept 10 to personally deliver the Thai Government's initial 20 tonnes of relief aid to Cambodian flood victims. Wichian, the first Thai minister to visit the war-torn country since 1975, was welcomed upon arrival by Phnom Penh Deputy Prime Minister Kong Sam-Ol, who also briefed the Thai visitor on the country's worst flood in the past four decades.

Among items loaded on the vessel yesterday were 484 tonnes of rice, 360 tonnes of fertilizer, 210 tanks of benzin and gasoline and 210 tanks of diesel, a number of sandbags and canned food.

Wichian had earlier handed over some medicine, foodstuff, fuel, animal vaccine and fertilizer.

The Bt10-million emergency aid was approved recently by the Thai Government in response to Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk's request for international assistance to Cambodia, nearly half of which has been submerged by the historic inundation. [passage omitted]

SRV Power, Fertilizer Plant Requests Detailed

BK2209051091 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] Deputy Industry Minister Wira Susangkonkan said Vietnam wants Thailand to build power and fertilizer plants at the White Tiger and Dragon natural gas fields in Vietnam.

The minister, who recently visited Vietnam, said Vietnam has made the proposal because the country is facing the shortage of capital fund, so it needs foreign investment.

He said he told the Vietnamese side that Thailand will consider the proposal and will urge a Japanese bank to extend a longterm credit to Vietnam.

Thailand also suggested that the planned fertilizer plants have a production capacity of 400,000-600,000 tonnes a year instead of 1 million tonnes as proposed by Vietnam. This is to reduce investment cost.

The minister said Vietnam had asked to postpone the signing of an agreement to supply natural gas to Thailand from its Big Bear, Dragon, and White Tiger fields.

Thailand earlier proposed to develop all the three natural gas fields and to carry out joint exploration on natural gas in Vietnam.

Air Force F-5A Jet Crashes; Pilot Killed

BK2409145991 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] An Air Force F-5A jetfighter crashed today in Lop Buri Province. The pilot, Flight Lieutenant Yotsak Charoenpru, was killed. The incident took place at 1145 while the plane was heading for Lop Buri from Udon Thani Province for joint weapons training with Wing 4. The plane, based at Wing 23 in Udon Thani Province, crashed in Phattha Nikhom District of Lop Buri.

Reportedly the plane developed engine trouble before it crashed. Yet Group Captain Bamrung Buapradit, a staff officer at the Air Force Secretariat, said the cause of crash has still not been established. Officials have been dispatched from Wing 2 to conduct an investigation at the crash site.

The F-5A belongs to the first group of the Air Force jetfighters used in communist suppression and national defense service. The most recent incident involving a crash of this type of the aircraft occurred when one of them was downed in Chat Trakan District, Phitsanulok Province, during the Rom Klao battle in 1988 over Thai-Lao border dispute.

Bank of Thailand To Cut Discount Rate 1 Percent

BK2309025791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Sep 91 p B1

[Text] The Bank of Thailand is to cut its discount rate by one per cent to 11 per cent today, by giving indication that it wants interest rates in the money market to fall further.

This follows a meeting on Friday of the Monetary Policy Commitee of the central bank, chaired by governor Wichit Suphinit, which viewed the timing as appropriate to being down interest rates, to reflect the easing money market.

As of August 1991, credit expansion in the commercial banking system grew by 22.4 per cent on an annual-basis and the loan-to-deposit ratio fell to 104.7 per cent against previous month's 105. In the same period, the outstanding credit in the system stood at Bt [Baht]1.68 trillion, against Bt1.60 trillion for deposits.

The discount rate cut represents a clear signal on the downward path of interest rates. The discount rate—the rate at which the central bank lends to the commercial banks through its loan window—is an important monetary instrument, brought into use again after the central bank allowed the money market to adjust to the mechanism over the past two years.

"This cut of the discount rate amounts to a major change in policy of the central bank, which is trying to lead the money market in a sound direction," a highly-placed source said.

In spite of the easing market conditions, the commercial banks have faced a dilemma in cutting their interest rates, since each of them is wary about losing its market share.

Sept 16 was supposed to be the date for the five major commercial banks to reduce their three-month deposit rate from 13.25 per cent to 12.50 per cent. But this "gentlemen's agreement" was breached, since some banks did not want to see depositors shift their deposits away.

This has affected the cost of borrowings on the part of private enterprises, which continue to face high borrowal rates of 18-19 per cent. The prime customers of the banks are still borrowing money at 16.50-17.50 per cent.

In the European markets, the interest rates for dollar borrowings have fallen to only 6 per cent, meaning that the interest rate differential between the domestic borrowings and overseas borrowings has remained high at 10-11 per cent over the past one year.

Following the discount rate cut, the central bank hopes that both the deposit and borrowing interest rates will fall accordingly, although it wants the downward adjustment to be made gradually to prevent the resurgence of overspending.

Cheap interest rates stimulate consumer spending and speculation in the property and stock markets, which, in turn, trigger inflationary pressure. The central bank is aiming to bring inflation down to 5.6 per cent this year, against the original estimate of 6 per cent.

With signs of a slowdown of the economy, the central bank comes to believe that bringing down the interest rates slightly will stimulate investment in some crucial sectors, so that the growth rate of the economy will continue to be sustainable at 8 per cent this year.

The cut will bring the discount rate to a level similar to the interbank rate—the rate at which commercial banks lend short-term moneys among themselves. The call loan rate is standing at 11-12 per cent.

Bangkok Bank, which controls about 30 per cent of the market share, made a public outcry on Thursday last week, after finding that its deposits had disappeared to the tune of Bt400 million over a period of only three days after the announcement of the gentlemen's agreement.

This means that some banks breached the agreement by not bringing down their three-month deposit rates to 12.5 per cent, and so enjoyed a shift of the deposits to their accounts.

"I am quite surprised about the disappearance of deposits of our major customers because normally the major customers will be given an extra 0.50 per cent in interest rate," said Damrong Kritsanamara, managing director of the Bangkok Bank.

This week, the top executives of the five major commecial banks—the Bangkok Bank, Thai Farmers Bank, Krung Thai Bank, Siam Commercial Bank and Bank of Ayudhya—are expected to meet again to remind themselves about the gentlemen's agreement.

Chat Thai Party Accepts Chatchai's Resignation

BK2109024491 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Sep 91 p A2

[Text] Chat Thai Party yesterday formally accepted former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan's resignation as party leader and member and planed a party assembly next month to choose a new head, the party spokesman said yesterday.

Prathuang Wichanpricha said Chatchai resignation letter was submitted to 22 Chat Thai executive members who gathered for the first formal party meeting following the Feb 23 coup.

Chat Thai secretary general Banhan Sinlapa-acha chaired yesterday's meeting and was the one who submitted Chatchai's resignation letter, the spokesman said.

Prathuang Banhan [as published] was appointed acting party leader pending the planned party election scheduled for Oct 19. Prathuang quoted Banhan as telling the party board that Chatchai's resignation letter had been in his keeping since Feb 27.

The spokesman said how many party executives expressed sorrow over the resignation of Chatchai who said in his letter that "I am too old and don't want to be involved in politics any more and want to have some rest."

Chatchai won the party leadership with the help of Banhan in 1986. He succeeded Praman Adireksan who was given the ceremonial post of chairman of the party board of advisers. Praman was absent from yesterday's meeting without giving any reasons, the spokesman said.

Strong speculation had it recently that the next Chat Thai Party would be ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong, managing director of the Airports Authority of Thailand.

Party sources claimed that Chatchai, Banhan and Praman had agreed to let Sombun lead the party. Rewut Chindaphon, a Chat Thai member, was the only one who publicly confirmed the reports. Prathuang and Rewut's statement that Sombun would become the next party leader should be regarded as his personal opinion.

The spokesman said Sombun could be party leader if he was elected by party members during the planned election next month when the party secretary general and deputy party leaders would nominate candidates for the party's top post.

Sombun yesterday denied reports that Chatchai had persuaded him to accept the party leadership when the two played golf together on Thursday.

"We just played golf, nothing more than that," Sombun said.

Court President Alleges 'Political Interference'

BK2109021791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Sep 91 p A1-A2

[Text] The stand-off between the Judicial Commission and Justice Minister Praphat Ouaichai intensified yesterday after outgoing Supreme Court President Sophon Ratthanakon openly alleged outright political interference in judicial affairs and asked Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to step in to solve the problem.

In his first official statement to the press concerning the simmering row, Sophon said he had sent a letter to the prime minister to confirm the Judicial Commission's Sept 2 appointment of his successor and its Sept 16 re-endorsement of the decision.

The statement said Sophon decided to go public because Praphat "has taken a clear-cut stand that he will never accept the Judicial Commission's resolution if the panel does not appoint the man he wants as new Supreme Court president."

Sophon said the Praphat-backed Supreme Court presidential candidate, Sawat Jotiphanit, was not accepted by the majority of the Judicial Commission.

The commission on Sept 2 unilaterally appointed Prawit Khampharat, chief justice of the Region 1 Appeals Court, as Sophon's successor. Praphat declared the appointment illegal, citing an ambiguous law that apparently can be interpreted to mean that the commission can appoint senior judges only after the justice minister has nominated somebody.

The justice minister early this week unveiled a controversial move to assert control over the Judicial Commission, three of whose members, including chairman Sophon, are to retire at the end of this month.

The conflict has involved legal and procedural technicalities and appeared deadlocked since the Judicial Commission reaffirmed its Sept 2 appointment of Prawit.

"Legal questions are not the real problem," Sophon's statement said. "The real problem is the question of whether the Judicial Commission will comply with the minister's choice of new Supreme Court president."

Sophon confirmed the Judicial Commission's fear that Praphat would replace the three outgoing panel members with his men in order to strengthen his hand.

Anti-Praphat commission members have charged that the minister had refused to nominate any candidate for the Supreme Court presidency because he wanted to wait until he could consolidate support in the panel.

The minister now has five supporters in the 12-man panel.

"The majority of the Judicial Commission believes that the minister will not make any nomination until the three retiring commission members give up their membership," Sophon's statement said.

"The majority of the Judicial Commission regards the minister's conduct as an abuse of power.... If the Judicial Commission remains passive, allowing the minister to appoint the new Supreme Court president in his own way to serve his own wish, it will mean the minister, not the commission, has the authority to make such an appointment. This will be a case of allowing the executive power to interfere with the judicial power," it added.

The Judicial Commission, according to Sophon, has represented the required freedom of judges from political influence.

Political interference "will affect the status of the commission, which has earned praise and respect, causing it to no longer be reliable and no longer be able to serve as the guarantee of freedom for judges," the statement said.

A Supreme Court judge who requested anonymity, meanwhile, said the prime minister was legally empowered to intervene and solve the conflict.

Praphat has refused to seek royal approval for the commission's appointment of Prawit and instead is planning to appoint an acting Supreme Court president to replace Sophon.

The acting president would serve as chairman of the Judicial Commission, bringing the number of Praphat's supporters in the panel to six.

Praphat also plans to appoint an acting Supreme Court vice president. But his opponents argue that he is not legally authorized to do so.

A scenario of Praphat having one more supporter yet failing to get majority control of the panel would simply cause more turmoil. When it comes to controversial issues, the minister's opposition could virtually make the panel inoperable by just walking out to prevent the required seven-man quorum.

A commission source said Prime Minister Anan could intervene by seeking a Cabinet resolution on the issue. If the Cabinet resolved against Praphat, the prime minister could by himself forward the Sept 2 appointment of Prawit to His Majesty the King for royal approval, according to the source.

Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan yesterday hinted that the prime minister would step in, and said there would soon be a way out.

"I can guarantee there will be a way out," Michai said. "We will have to wait for the right time. A careless move would be considered an interference (in judicial affairs)," he said.

Chawalit Criticizes Proposal on Direct Elections

BK2109021491 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Sep 91 p A2

[Text] New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday lashed out at the Interior Ministry's proposal to end direct elections of village and tambon leaders.

Chawalit said the proposal ran totally against democratic development.

The Interior Ministry has proposed legislation to amend the Local Administrative Act to terminate direct elections of village headmen and kamnan (tambon leaders).

A government screening committee on new legislation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Phao Sarasin early this week refused to endorse the amendment draft and passed the matter on for a decision by the Cabinet during its weekly meeting on Tuesday.

Chawalit said the proposal to end the election of the grassroots administrators contradicted the National Peacekeeping Council's [NPKC] repeated claims that it wanted to enhance democracy in the country.

NPKC Secretary General Itsaraphong Nunpakdi, concurrently interior minister, strongly supports the plan to eliminate villagers' right to elect their leaders.

Chawalit said he is now beginning to fear the NPKC although the council mambers were once his subordinates.

"I am watching the NPKC with fear," Chawalit said. "They used to fear me but now I have to fear them."

Chawalit made the statement while giving a political speech at Ramkhamhaeng University campus.

Chawalit's 'Political Offensive' Analyzed

BK2209033891 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Sep 91 p B1

[From the political desk]

[Text] The political situation remains as polarized as it was before New Aspiration Party [NAP] leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun had a man-to-man meeting last Sunday. What the "brothers" said to each other is not known. But it's evident that their positions on the way to the next general election are as wide apart as ever.

Chawalit has been pushing for the next election to be held before the formulation and promulgation of the new constitution. Otherwise, a source close to him said, the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) should replace the present draft constitution with the previous 1978 Constitution which the military dismantled during the Feb 23 coup.

If the NPKC cannot abandon the plan to draft and promulgate the new constitution before the next pools, then it should put the draft to referendum before adopting it, said the source who asked not to be named.

"Senior people in our party have agreed that the draft constitution as it is now is unacceptable. Perhaps it will get worse after being scrutinized in the second reading," the source said.

Suchinda, who was accompanied by deputy army chief, Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi to last Sunday's meeting, stuck to the plan which has been outlined in the provisional Constitution.

Under the provisional charter, the new constitution should be promulgated and the election held by the end of this year. If a constitutional crisis arises, the NPKC could use a previous constitution for the next poll, which must be held no later than April next year.

Deep down Suchinda might hope to strike a compromise with his predecessor to save himself from Chawalit's political offensive. His term for a settlement to the dispute is probably an offer for the NAP leader to have a say in the creation of the new constitution.

Obviously, the two sides refused to budge during this latest round of discussions.

Before and after the meeting, Chawalit made headlines in a political offensive, beginning as far back as April 10 with a statement declaring his withdrawal from the "polarized power rivalry".

The statement was interpreted by some as withdrawing in the face of an escalated conflict with the military. But sources close to him dismissed this scenario.

Nonetheless, one of the NAP insiders admitted that Chawalit came up with the statement in part because of accusations from the "other focal point of power" that he was struggling to become prime minister by arousing popular discontent against the NPKC and its alleged effort to formulate a new constitution which could serve as its vehicle to retaining political power.

Chawalit's move, another said, was intended to put across to the other side the message that he did not want to antagonize them, and that the root cause of the mounting public opposition was the NPKC's own doing and not because of the campaign by the NAP.

"Gen Chawalit wants to make it clear that what he is doing is not a struggle to become prime minister, and that his campaign is aimed at serving the cause of restoring real democracy," said the NAP source.

Acknowledging criticism that Chawalit's remarks were hardly understandable, another source close to him said that Chawalit's dilemma was that he had to maintain the extensive contacts he had established both inside and outside the army.

"The NAP leader is also the type of person who wants everybody to go with him in realizing his visions for a better Thailand. It's not easy for anybody in his shoes to say something publicly that would cater to all sides," said the supporter.

Chawalit's statement declaring that he was not a focal point of power was, on the one hand, aimed at dispelling concerns in the military that he would be instigating a popular uprising against the army leaders. On the other hand he was getting his message across to the public that he was striving to restore democracy.

Another supporter put it in a different light: The move was to "confuse the other side".

While seeking to contain the conflict with the powerful army grouping led by Suchinda, Chawalit nevertheless seems determined to step up his campaign against the draft constitution.

Just as his statement was released on Sept 10, Chawalit was in discussion with a group of leading village headmen and khamnans who are discontent with the move by Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong to end the direct election of village headmen. Chawalit has promised support for the plan by the group to set up a head office of their "club" in Nongkhaem.

On the following day, the NAP leader and his secretary general Sqn Ldr [Squadron-Leader] Prasong Sunsiri held a closed door exchange of views with a group of former student leaders, including Sombat Thamrongthanyawong, Somphong Srawaki, Chamni Sakseth and Chaturon Kochasi.

Chawalit reportedly indicated his willingness to spearhead the broad-based movement against an undemocratic constitution.

Apart from aiding leading village headmen and Khamnans and establishing contacts with the former student leaders, NAP leaders have also reportedly sought to form an alliance with political parties over a joint stand against the draft constitution.

As one observer put it, if Thailand needs a Boris Yeltsin, Chawalit's supporters would likely say their leader could be the man. Whether that situation could occur in Thailand if the NPKC sticks to the plan to hold the election before the end of April is debatable.

On the one hand, critics doubted the scenario could happen because the general election was not such a long way off. Moreover, the silent majority would prefer not to be dragged into the rivalry if they are not sure how it would affect them.

A variable is what the new constitution will look like.

Chawalit's supporters warned that wide-spread discontent against the NPKC cannot be ruled out if the National Assembly came up with an "ugly" constitution.

Otherwise, Chawalit could earn more public acceptance of his leadership, a development which he would very much need if he seeks to be the country's next prime minister. Chawalit's political offensive has also helped to keep his supporters' hope alive that he would eventually win by sticking to the democratic path.

Had he laid low, leaving the formulation of the new constitution and the setting of the date for the next polls to the military-dominated National Assembly and the government respectively, the rank and file in his party would gradually defect to the other focal point of power.

Whether Chawalit would succeed in establishing himself as the spearhead of a popular campaign for democracy or not remains to be seen. Whether the power rivalry would finally end up with the two sides mending fences in the same way that Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin now have to live with each other also is purely a matter of conjecture before the next polls.

Vietnam

Continued U.S. Trade Embargo Policy Denounced

BK2409112791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush last weekend signed an extension for another year of the ban on trading with Vietnam. Here is our radio's comment of this issue:

This decision of the U.S. President has surprised large section of public opinion as it is hoped that in the current world trend for dialogue, cooperation, and diversified international relations, the U.S. will take positive act toward Vietnam. But, in fact, Washington continues its outmoded policy toward Vietnam which turns the tides. With this action, the U.S. President ran counter to the aspiration of the American public for the lifting of U.S.

embargo against Vietnam and normalization of U.S.-Vietnamese relations. The fact is that public opinion in the U.S. Congress, business circles, and American war veterans have been opposed to the U.S. policy of trade embargo against Vietnam. They held that this policy does not serve the U.S. interest. Of more than 160 U.S. companies operating in Asia and the Pacific, 75 percent agreed to establish economic relations with Vietnam immediately. At a vote of the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee two months ago, 12 of the 13 votes demanded an end to the U.S. embargo against Vietnam.

Meanwhile, U.S. Senator John Kerry, chairman of the Senate's MIA-POW'S Committee, told party General Secretary Do Muoi during his recent visit to Vietnam that most of the Americans want to improve relations with Vietnam. He also said that the embargo against Vietnam was an erroneous policy. The lifting of this embargo will help solve pending issues in the relations between the two countries, he added.

With the extension for another year of the embargo against Vietnam, U.S. business circles will certainly suffer more losses than their colleagues in the allied countries. How long will the U.S. Administration and many American companies lose the advantage of doing business with Vietnam while those from Japan, Singapore, Italy, Britain, France, and the Netherlands are strengthening trade ties with Vietnam?

Dealing with the U.S. relations with Vietnam at the hearing on Vietnam in the Capitol Hill, a U.S. senator quoted former U.S. President George Washington as saying that the United States should establish a harmonious relations and conciliation with all countries in the world. Nevertheless, there are encouraging steps in the U.S.-Vietnamese relations. It is said that favorable chances for the improvement of bilateral ties as those in 1977 were returned [as heard], but it is regrettable that U.S. President George Bush did not take the chances and with his decision to extend the trade embargo against Vietnam, he pushed the chances away. Meanwhile, U.S. allied countries are effectively taking advantage leaving the U.S. far behind in business relations with Vietnam.

PRC's Li Peng on Normalization of Relationship

BK2309153291 Hanoi VNA in English 1436 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 23—The normalization and development of the Sino-Vietnamese relationship will not affect China's friendly ties with Thailand and other ASEAN countries, said Chinese Premier Li Peng.

Mr Li was quoted by the Chinese news agency XINHUA as saying in his talks with visiting Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun in Beijing Sunday.

With the progress of the solution on the Cambodian issue, the Sino-Vietnamese relations will be gradually improved and normalized, Mr Li said, adding that such improvement, and normalization based on the five principles of co-existence, is not exclusive.

Le Quang Dao Returns After Visit to Cambodia

BK2209133291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] The Vietnamese National Assembly delegation led by its chairman Le Quang Dao returned home on Saturday, 21 September, concluding its official frindship visit to Cambodia. Earlier, on Friday, Cambodian National Assembly President Chea Sim gave a reception in honor of the Vietnamese delegation.

TV Receives Technical Assistance From Japan

BK2209140791 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Recently, within the framework of a nonrefundable cultural aid program sponsored by the Japanese Government, the Vietnam Television station received a quantity of technical equipment to set up a special purpose videotape recording studio worth 23 million yen.

Through urgent work, engineers and technicians of the technical section of the Vietnam Television station have completed assembling this modern videotape recording studio after a short period of time.

On 17 September 1991, the Vietnam Television station held an official ceremony to inaugurate this studio, which will help improve the technical quality of television programs.

Attending the ceremony were representatives of the Office of the Council of Ministers, the State Planning Commission, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Japanese Ambassador to Vietnam Hiroyuki Yushita; and a number of Japanese Embassy cadres.

The director general cum editor in chief of the Vietnam Television station thanked the Japanese enterprise for this practical assistance.

WFTU Official Pays 'Working Visit' 8-11 Sep

BK2209133891 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Due to the complicated world developments, the Secretariat of the World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU] appointed Mr. Alain Sterne, deputy secretary general of the WFTU, to pay a working visit to the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers [CVW] from 8-11 September 1991.

While in Vietnam, Mr. Alain Sterne was received by Comrade Nguyen Van Tu, vice president of the WFTU and president of the CVW.

Also attending the reception were Comrade Duong Xuan An, vice president of the CVW; and Comrade Nguyen Van Dung, head of the CVW External Relations Department.

Both sides exchanged information on urgent problems facing the world trade union movement at present.

The reception took place in a very high sense of responsibility toward the future of the world trade union movement.

Mr. Alain Sterne visited the Vietnam Machinery and Metallurgy Trade Union Headquarters.

He left Hanoi on 11 September 1991, concluding his visit to Vietnam.

Nguyen Thi Binh Visits Germany 11-19 Sep

BK2309095391 Hanoi VNA in English 0639 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 23—Ms. Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the Commission for External Relations of the National Assembly and president of the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organizations, visited the Federal Republic of Germany from September 11-19 as guest of the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung Institute (FES).

While in Germany, she met with Mr. Sterken, chairman of the External Relations Commission of the FRG Parliament, and Ms. Daubler Gmelin, vice chairman of the German Social Democratic Party (SDP), and other parliament members, informing them of the results of the 7th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the initial achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in their renovation process. She also discussed with her hosts measures to strengthen the friendship and solidarity between the two countries.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Binh had working sessions with the Hilfsaktion Vietnam (HAV) in Dusseldorf and met with representatives of non-governmental and humanitarian organizations and the FRG-Vietnam Friendship Association. She thanked those organizations for their support and assistance to Vietnam and called for their continued help to Vietnam in solving war consequences and natural disasters in order to develop the national economy and improve the people's life.

Election to IAEA Executive Board Reported

BK2309154591 Hanoi VNA in English 1430 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 23—Vietnam was elected member of the Executive Board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at its 35th session held in Vienna from September 16-21.

The board which comprises 35 members has a term of two years. Vietnam and the Philippines applied for the seat. Vietnam won 44 of the 81 votes compared with 37 votes won by the Philippines.

EC Gives Grants for Job Training Centers

BK2109083091 Hanoi VNA in English 0625 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 21—Since April this year, EC has, under its programme of aid to Vietnamese repatriates, in Ho Chi Minh City, granted six job-training centres and vocational schools a total of USD 131,693 mainly for the purchase of equipment. Besides, it has approved two projects to build a water supply station in Ward 5, Precinct 11, and a sea dyke in Binh Khanh Village, Duyen Hai District, the construction of which will start in October. EC has also sponsored the job-training for 57 repatriates in Precinct 5 and Binh Thanh . It is also considering loans totalling USD 108,600 to 34 individuals and six production units.

ASEAN Link, Foreign Investment Sought

BK2409030191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Sep 91 p A10

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Taking advantage of the imminent peace in Cambodia, Vietnam has made quick diplomatic overtures to move closer to ASEAN, an anti-communist regional grouping.

Last week, Vietnam officially notified the Philippines—which holds the chairmanship of ASEAN—that it is willing to accede, to the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. In doing so, Vietnam will become the second non-ASEAN country apart from Papua New Guinea to abide by the treaty, signatories of which vow to live in peaceful coexistence and to settle conflicts through non-violent means.

Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin has already endorsed Vietnam's plan during his visit to Hanoi last week. Thai officials are also optimistic other ASEAN countries would welcome Vietnam's intention to coexist peacefully in the region.

Previously, ASEAN only paid scant attention to Vietnam's call for more cooperation with the regional grouping. The recent breakthrough in the Cambodian peace negotiations has made Hanoi's new diplomatic move possible.

Late last week, Cambodia's government and the three guerrilla factions overcame the last major obstacle to a peace settlement by agreeing on a compromise electoral system. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the head of Cambodia's Supreme National Council said a peace agreement between the four factions could be signed at the end of October before the reconvening of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

The Vietnam backed Hun Sen government was installed in Phnom Penh in 1979 after Hanoi sent its troops to oust the Khmer Rouge which had been ruling Cambodia since 1975.

With Hanoi's acquiescence to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, ASEAN will have no valid reason as previously to ignore and isolate Vietnam.

Vietnam's adoption of the friendship treaty should lead to wider economic and trade cooperation with the richer ASEAN countries comprising Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

For the time being however, ASEAN is hesistant and considers it "premature" to admit Vietnam as a full-member of the grouping given the current stage of economic reform in the Indochinese country.

It is not surprising if landlocked Laos and post-war Cambodia follow Vietnam footsteps in the near future. When all major Southeast Asian countries, including Burma, are within the framework of the 1976 accord, it would mark the end of the Cold War in the region, once the hot bed of political and military conflicts.

By accepting Vietnam into the ASEAN fold by way of economic and trade cooperation, the regional grouping will realize its long-held dream of establishing its influence outside the present framework of nations. From now on, Vietnam can actively pursue, along with ASEAN, the plan to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality to prevent the intervention by major global powers.

Another immediate outcome of adopting the Treaty, would result in Vietnam establishing a stable position security-wise within the region.

At the very least, threat perceptions will be broken down and Hanoi can be certain that any potential conflict between the signatories could be avoided and would be resolved peacefully.

After the Cambodian conflict is settled, it is said that the next flashpoint in the region could be the dispute over the Spratly and Paracel Islands claimed by Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Philippines, and Brunei. In 1988, Vietnam clashed with China over the islands' sovereignty.

Optimism has been expressed that any conflict among the claimants will be prevented with Vietnam's adoption of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation. With the rapproachment in diplomatic ties between China and Vietnam, it is unlikely that Beijing will step up its defence on the islands. Vietnam and ASEAN on the other hand are promoting joint development in the disputed area and deferring the issue of determining the islands' sovereignty until an opportune moment.

Since the reunification of Vietnam, Hanoi has been worried it would be left out in the cold because of economic and diplomatic isolations due to its occupation of Cambodia. Viewed from this angle. Hanoi's move on the Treaty is timely as ASEAN leaders are scheduled to review the regional and world situation in the post-Cambodia era.

Next month, a Thai-Vietnamese summit is being planned between Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and his Vietnamese counterpart, Vo Van Kiet. The summit with Thailand would enable Vietnam to gauge the prevailing political environment in Southeast Asia, for further dialogues and cooperation with other ASEAN leaders at the later stage.

After the June party congress, Vietnam's communist leaders have accorded top priority towards Southeast Asia, especially ASEAN. Previously this was never done before.

For the first time, Hanoi is paying serious attention to ASEAN and has made efforts to remove impediments in their relationship. In stark contrast, only a year ago, Vietnam just paid lip service to the resolution of the Cambodian crisis and the boat-people problem.

But all that has changed with Vietnam's constructive role in the recent Cambodian peace talks and ongoing efforts to reintegrate the Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong and elsewhere in Southeast Asia back to their localities.

Vietnam's forays into the realm of ASEAN is irreversible. The country is attempting to create an atmosphere that is conducive to attract foreign investment to bail out the beleagured economy.

Hanoi's prime objective is no longer military adventurism but to maintain political stability to stimulate domestic growth and in the long run, increased economic ties with ASEAN would improve Vietnam's standard of living.

New Australian Ambassador Quoted on Relations

BK2209150191 Hanoi VNA in English 1342 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 22—The new Australian ambassador to Vietnam, Mr Michael Potts, has expressed satisfaction at the good relations between his country and Vietnam.

Mr. Potts, who replaces Mr. Graham Alliban, told VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY that two-way trade had gone up from U.S. $6.4 million in [words indistinct] million in 1989.

The new ambassador, who was accredited on August 31, referred to the conclusion of an agreement on trade and economic cooperation in 1990 and to an investment protection agreement in March this year between his country and Vietnam. Economic reforms in Vietnam, he said, have opened up new prospects and have drawn the attention of business circles in Australia. Mr. Potts took note of the fact that Australia and Vietnam are also joining efforts in settling political problems of common concern including the conflict in Cambodia and the problem of boat people.

Mr. Potts previously served in Spain, Laos, Tanzania, Zambia and at the United Nations. His latest post was director of the policy coordination section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Plastics Factory Exports Products to Taiwan

BK2209150991 Hanoi VNA in English 1349 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 22—The first consignment of odourless membrane, a new export item from the Rang Dong Plastics Factory under the Ministry of Light Industry, was exported to Taiwan recently.

With [number indistinct] tonnes of such product, the Rang Dong Factory has become the second in the plastics industry sector to have products exported to countries outside (?east Vietnam).

The Rang Dong factory is taking further steps to export other products such as [words indistinct].

Vo Van Kiet Congratulates Iraqi Counterpart

BK2309083891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] On 19 September, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet sent a congratulatory message to His Excellency Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, Council of Ministers Chairman of the Republic of Iraq.

The message said in part: I am honored to present my best wishes to you on your appointment as chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Iraq.

Le Van Triet on Export, Foreign Trade Targets

BK2309134691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Vietnam will try to export more than $1 billion worth of products in the second half of 1991 said Mr. Le Van Triet, the newly appointed Minister of Commerce and Tourism.

At a recent meeting to review foreign trade in the first six months of this year, the minister said that export value in that period totalled $750 million and 69 million rubles or 43.5 percent of the plan for the whole year.

These figures he said were considerable given the fact that export to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe has dropped drastically while new market requires high quality, better design, and quicker delivery.

To earn more than $1 billion in the second half of the year, he said Vietnam will have to increase its main export lines such as crude oil, rice, coal, maritime products, rubber, tea, wood, and groundnut.

Vietnam will broaden its economic relations and goods exchanges with all countries, particularly customers in this region such as Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan while continuing to maintain and expand relations with traditional partners such as the Soviet Union and East European countries.

550,000 Civil Servants Discharged From Work

BK2109085491 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] So far, more than 550,000 civil servants have been discharged from work in accordance with the Council of Ministers' Decision No. 176. Government offices and other state units have asked for 170.75 billion dong in supplementary funds to compensate the people being discharged. The Central Budget has provided 53.2 percent of the funds.

In the process of reorganizing business, the Workers' Union has been explaining the policy and helping the civil servants to classify themselves in the labor categories. Classification consists of the three groups A, B, and C.

The situation of each discharged civil servant is also considered to make sure the full entitlement is received. Many offices and units also spend their own funds or their social funds to provide additional help for the discharged civil servants.

Now, the localities continue to pay the compensation, finalize their budget, and discuss measures to further implement Decision No. 176 of the Council of Ministers.

News Conference Introduces New Tax Laws 21 Sep

BK2409100191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] On 21 September, the Office of the National Assembly and the Council of State convened a news conference on the preparatory work for the promulgation of the regulations on labor safety, the regulations on amending and supplementing a number of provisions of the regulations on the People's Security Force and People's Police Force, the decision on amending and supplementing a number of tax rates specified under the business and special consumption tax laws, the collection of license fees on the state economic sector, and the application of new slaughtering tax rates.

Comrade Tran Hieu, deputy minister of labor, war invalids, and social services, gave a summary of the contents of the regulations on labor safety. These are important documents made public following the promulgation of the regulations on labor contracts and the provisional regulations on labor safety aimed at defining the responsibilities of employers toward employees, as well as the obligation of state management agencies to guarantee work safety and sanitation for workers.

Comrade Le Minh Huong, deputy minister of interior, introduced the contents of the regulations on amending and supplementing a number of provisions of the regulations on the Vietnam People's Security Force and Vietnam People's Police Force. The amendments and addendum include the system of ranks, eligibility for promotion, and other provisions governing the policy toward police and security officers.

Comrade Phan Van Vinh, deputy minister of finance, introduced the contents of the decision on amending and supplementing a number of provisions of the law on business and special consumption taxes, license fees, and slaughtering tax rates aimed at promoting production and goods circulation.

Nguyen Van Linh Visits Housing Projects 18 Sep

BK2209103891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] On 18 September, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, adviser to the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, visited and inspected various housing projects in Ho Chi Minh City, some for sale by installment to the poor.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh also visited the 4th precinct slum which has recently been built into the Viet Thanh community. He also inspected the Binh Thanh district construction site, the Hoang Ho Tham housing project in Tan Binh district, the Tu Vinh Thanh project in the 10th precinct, and the Binh Thoi project in the 11th precinct.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh urged Ho Chi Minh City to build more homes in the inner city on land that has been left unused for a long time. He said this is a commendable task and will help resolve the shortage of living quarters for city people. He also inspected various low-income housing projects that are for sale on installment terms. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh earlier attended the traditional meeting of the Nam Bo small arms sector.

Vo Van Kiet Holds Session With Trade Union

BK2209143591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] In Hanoi on 19 September, Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, had a working session with the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers [CVW] Secretariat to discuss pressing issues related to production and the people's daily life. These were the issues discussed at the recent sixth conference of the CVW Executive Committee which was aimed at firmly grasping and implementing the Seventh CPV Congress resolution.

At the working session, Nguyen Van Tu, chairman of the CVW, clearly pointed to difficulties faced by the CVW at present as well as its proposals to reorganize the production and management mechanism at state-run economic establishments, streamline specialized personnel, and provide more jobs for the workers. The most difficult task now is to provide pensions and allowances for the discharged workers.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet, Comrade Nguyen Van Tu, and other members of the CVW Secretariat reached a consensus on the working agenda and coordination method between the Council of Ministers Standing Committee and the CVW Secretariat which are aimed at considering and seriously resolving issues raised by the CVW, including the amendments to some regulations on the current business accounting.

Comrade Vo Van Kiet stressed that due to financial constraints, efforts to provide allowances to all discharged workers cannot be made at the same time, but priority was given to those facing acute difficulty, and that if warranted, interest should be paid to those receiving their allowances on a delayed basis.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Outgoing Finnish Envoy

BK2409064091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] On 20 September, Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received Esko Antero Lipponen, Finnish ambassador to Vietnam, who came to bid farewell to the chairman prior to the conclusion of his tour of duty in Vietnam. The chairman of the Council of Ministers had cordial talks with Ambassador Esko Antero Lipponen.

Vo Chi Cong Receives Outgoing Ambassadors

BK2309072991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] On 19 September 1991, Chairman of the State Council Vo Chi Cong received extraordinary and plenipotenitary ambassadors to our country: Steel Pieter of the Kingdom of Belgium; Khamphet Phengmeuang of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; U Ye Cho of the Union of Myanmar; and Esko Antero Lipponen of the Republic of Finland. These came to say good-bye before they concluded their terms of duty in Vietnam.

Do Muoi Receives New Lao Ambassador 20 Sep

BK2409094891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] On 20 September, Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of our party Central Committee, received Comrade Khamphet Phengmeuang, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Vietnam, on the occasion of the latter's arrival in our country to assume his new duty.

Comrade Do Muoi had a cordial talk with Ambassador Khamphet Phengmeuang and wished the special relationship between Vietnam and Laos constant consolidation and development.

Attending the reception was Comrade Trinh Ngoc Thai, deputy chairman of the party Central Committee External Relations Department.

Do Muoi Attends Mid-Autumn Gala Youth Night

BK2409102491 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Report by Dinh Khai on 21 September Hanoi gala night for teenagers and children to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival and welcome the new school year—portion recorded]

[Summary] A gala night was held at the Children Palace in Hanoi on 21 September by the Municipal Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union [HCMCYU] for teenagers and children to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival and welcome the new school year.

Attending the function were Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of the committee for protection and care for the Vietnamese children; Pham The Duyet, secretary of the Hanoi municipal party committee; Ha Quang Du, first secretary of the HCMCYU Central Committee; Le At Hoi, chairman of the Hanoi municipal people's committee; many uncles representing the HCMCYU Central Committee, the Hanoi municipal party and people's committees; and representatives from the central level and in Hanoi.

Addressing the function, Party General Secretary Do Muoi said:

[Begin recording] "Dear nieces and nephews, today, I am very pleased to have the chance, together with you, to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, our national traditional festival for children. I wish all of you who are present here, and the others throughout the country, a happy and healthy Mid-Autumn Festival celebration.

"Dear nieces and nephews, celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival this year, you are entering the new school year while the entire party and people are implementing the law on protection, care for, and education of children, as well as the law on universalization of primary education just adopted by the SRV National Assembly. I hope that all of you will strictly implement Uncle Ho's five teachings, strive to fulfill your studies and overcome difficulty in daily life, thereby becoming good sons and competent students who actively participate in social activities while helping your friends to attend schools and work for the Ho Chi Minh Vanguard Teenagers Unit.

"On this occasion, I hope that various echelons of party committees and the administration, parents, teachers, responsible officials, sectors, and mass organizations will take good care of the children while striving to satisfactorily implement Uncle Ho's teaching: To plant trees for the interest in ten years, to cultivate men for the interest in a century. We must educate and train our children to correctly and effectively continue our ancestors' undertaking of building a strong, firm, modern, prosperous, and beautiful socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

"To all nieces and nephews, my warmest kisses." [applause] [end recording]

Afterwards, General Secretary Do Muoi presented gifts to representatives of children and teenagers attending the function. He and other leaders then danced with the children while the band played the song: As if Uncle Ho Lives With Us in the Happy Days of the Great Victory.

Le Kha Phieu Attends Army Corps Congress

BK2209130391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The Quyet Thang Army Corps held its second round party organization congress from 16-18 September. Lieutenant General Le Kha Phieu, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and head of the Army General Political Department, attended and directed the congress.

More than 200 delegates attending the congress expressed their identity of views on the draft report of the Army corps party organization.

During the past five years—despite major changes in its organization, streamlining of its personnel, and the demands of many pressing tasks—the Army corps has satisfactorily fulfilled its tasks thanks to its efforts in developing its tradition, strength, and existing potential as well as its endeavor to strengthen internal unity. As a result, many units have made progress in various aspects and the Army corps, as a whole, has prepared itself well to cope with all complicated changes of the situation while striving to overcome illusion, heighten vigilance, and stand ready for all assigned tasks.

The congress spent much time discussing the new party organization's program of action which is aimed at enhancing the combined strength to contribute to firmly defending the socialist system. The congress also frankly pointed to shortcomings and weaknesses in some aspects which include the capability of cadres at grass-roots units, financial and management work, and political activities at units.

Speaking to the congress, Comrade Le Kha Phieu profoundly analyzed the current world situation and the duty of the Army corps at present which is to build it into a firm and strong unit in all aspects, especially in the political domain to be worthy of the confidence granted to it by the party, state, and people for the cause of defending the fatherland and socialism.

Thua Thien-Hue Province Holds Party Congress

BK2409101191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] Thua Thien-Hue provincial party organization held its 10th second-round congress from 20 to 22 September. On the strength of thoroughly understanding the Seventh Party Congress resolutions and applying them creatively to the realistic situation in localities, the participants in the congress devoted a great deal of time to debating the economic structure of the province for the five-year 1991-95 period, and determined its agroindustrial and service structure.

Based on the characteristics and potentials of a zone with natural economic advantages, the congress decided that the province would concentrate investment in the three major economic areas of delta, seas and lagoons, and mountainous and hilly regions. Particularly since Hue City is characterized by the importance of its political, cultural, scientific, and tourism activities—not only for Thua Thien-Hue province but also for the entire country—it was decided that the economic structure of Hue City should consist of industry, handicrafts, trade, service and tourism, in which Hue City should be mainly involved in food industry, light industries, farming out exports, and tourist services.

Addressing the congress, Political Bureau Member Nguyen Duc Binh commended the Thua Thien-Hue City party organization for its past achievements. He stressed that Thua Thien-Hue province provides many important political, economic, cultural, technological and tourist projects, and is one of several important national centers. Furthermore, the province has a long-standing cultural history and patriotic and revolutionary traditions. The provincial party organization and people are united. If we know how to bring these factors into play, we will be able to create integrated strength in the future to promote socioeconomic and cultural development. He urged the provincial party organization to understand and implement correctly the seventh national party congress resolutions and struggle to bring them to life, and confidently persist in the socialist path chosen by the party, Uncle Ho, and our people.

The congress elected 40 members to the 10th provincial party committee, half of whom are new members.

VNA Reports Socioeconomic Meeting in Nam Bo

BK2009152791 Hanoi VNA in English 1353 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept.20—A three-day conference on the "Strategy for Socio-economic Development in Nam Bo" was held in Ho Chi Minh City from Sept.18-20, under the chairmanship of First Vice-Premier Phan Van Khai.

Many scientific reports on land surveys, manpower, natural resources and economic potentials in the area were presented at the conference.

The participants also heard a report on the draft strategy for socio-economic development in Nam Bo till the year 2000.

Army Paper Commemorates Aug 1945 Revolution

BK2309151591 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 2 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Firmly Defend the Socialist Regime"]

[Text] The greatest achievement of the August 1945 revolution was that under the party's leadership, our entire people had thrown off the yoke of colonialist and feudalist domination and founded the Democratic Republic of Vietnam—the first worker-peasant revolutionary state in Southeast Asia—thus ushering in a new era, the era of independence, freedom, and advancement to socialism. For the first time in our nation's history, our people had risen up to master their own destiny and establish a regime without the exploitation of man by man and a truly revolutionary democratic state of the people, for the people, and by the people.

The socialist regime, of which the foundation had been built since the day Uncle Ho read the declaration of independence on 2 September 1945, has reflected accurately the law of development of our nation and satisfied the earnest wish of our entire people and attested to its vigorous vitality. When a small and weak country wants to survive and develop itself, it must always try to overcome painful and tremendous ordeals.

Establishing a new regime, the socialist regime, has been a totally new undertaking for our people. We have experienced many valuable lessons of success and failure from several decades of building socialism in the north as well as in the entire country under complicated political, economic, and social conditions. Particularly, in the more than four years of undergoing the process of renovation, we have experienced the most diversified pratical lessons that profoundly attest to our party's creative viewpoints concerning renovation on many important theoretical and practical issues in the tasks of accelerating economic development, instilling democracy, and developing the integrated strength of the system of leadership by the party, management by the state, and mastery by the masses.

The seventh party congress was a fine success. The congress reviewed experiences from more than four years of renovation and defined policies and orientations for development of the country in the immediate future. However, a matter of great historic significance was that the congress had asserted the need to continue advancing the country to socialism along the path mapped out by the party and Uncle Ho and chosen by our entire people.

Never before has socialism faced international challenges as stern as at present. The imperialist and reactionary forces are frantically launching attacks on the fortress of socialism and directing the spearhead of these attacks at our revolution. In the immediate future, our entire party and people still have to encounter numerous difficulties in the process of renovation. Against the backdrop of the complicated world situation, the seventh congress of our party affirmed: It is normal for the development of the law of revolution to go through winding steps. The line of renovation laid down by the sixth party congress is correct and the steps of renovation are suitable and are being applied to life. The most important thing now is the need for our entire party, people, and Armed Forces to firmly believe in the party's leadership, faithfully persist in the objectives of the socialist revolution, and seek a profound understanding of the ideological viewpoints expounded by the seventh party congress.

Persisting on the socialist path and successfully carrying out the party's process of renovation is, in fact, the decisive struggle between socialism and capitalism, between new and old things, and between progressiveness and conservativeness and backwardness that is taking place in every locality, at every moment, and in every domain of activity. More than ever before, our entire party, people, and Armed Forces must thoroughly understand the viewpoints that are based on independence and sovereignty; enhance the sense of self-reliance; perform work with all-out effort; actively and creatively unravel all difficulties; discover and exhibit all capabilities to carry out various activities with good results; firmly maintain order and discipline; and effect uniform and extensive changes in the economic, political, diplomatic, national defense, cultural, and social fields.

The strength of the regime and of the process of defending the country and the socialist regime is the strength of the entire people under the party's leadership. We must develop the extremely precious traditions of our party and people. The party must attach itself closely to the people while the people must trust and love the party and follow the party. All lines, viewpoints, and policies of the party and state must be originated from the people and by the people. We must exploit all the potentials of the people and country, while paying full attention to caring for and gradually improving the living and intellectual standards of the people.

Through "peaceful evolution," the enemies will frantically oppose and undermine our process of renovation. They will resort to all tricks in an attempt to lessen the role of the party, sow division between the party and the masses and between the army and the people, and stimulate bourgeois liberalism. Therefore, along with exerting all-out efforts in economic building and development, we must attach great importance to instilling the sense of awareness and vigilance to readily protecting our socialist state, party, and people and maintaining our political and social stability.

Through various glorious historic stages, our Army has always proved itself unswervingly loyal to the party and people. Our Army is determined to enhance the sense of revolutionary vigilance; attach itself closely to the people; constantly undergo training to improve its knowledge in all aspects and enhance its political ability; persist in the path and objectives of socialism; resolutely safeguard the regime, party, and people; and remain always worthy of being the reliable army of the party and people. Together with the entire party, our Army will strive to achieve the objectives of our revolution. As pointed out in the political report at the seventh party congress: "Advancing along the path of Marxism-Leninism—the path chosen by Uncle Ho—the Communists and entire people of Vietnam are united unanimously and are determined in their struggle for the construction of a prosperous and powerful socialist Vietnam for the happiness of the people.

New Zealand

Bolger Hopes To Resolve 'Rift' With U.S.

BK2409054491 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The New Zealand prime minister, Jim Bolger, says he believes the risks over mutual security between his government and the United States can be resolved, although the process could be a slow one. He was speaking at the United Nations headquarters in New York after a brief meeting with President George Bush.

New Zealand is no longer a member of the ANZUS military alliance linking Australia and the United States because of American objections to New Zealand legislation banning port visits by nuclear-armed or powered ships.

Mr. Bolger declined to give details on how he expected the rift to be resolved, saying only that both he and Mr. Bush had agreed to devote their energies to the problem.

Following his discussions with Mr. Bush, the New Zealand leader addressed the UN General Assembly where he made an urgent plea for decisive action to break the current impasse in global trade liberalization talks.

Poll Shows Government Popularity at Record Low

BK2209105091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] WELLINGTON, Sept 22 (AFP)—The New Zealand Government's popularity slumped further Sunday in an opinion poll which showed that only 22 percent of committed voters now support the National Party.

The Heylen Research Centre, which carried out the poll for Television New Zealand, said the figure was a record low for a party holding power in New Zealand.

The research centre conducted the poll Saturday, questioning 929 voters in a random selection throughout the country.

The result compared with 39 percent support for National in May, 35 percent in June, 37 percent in July and 34 percent in August.

The Opposition Labour Party also lost support in the latest poll but retained its strong lead over National. Labour recorded 42 percent support among committed voters, down from 47 percent in August.

The environmentalist Green Party recorded unprecedented support since its formation last year, gaining 17 per cent of committed voters compared with nine percent last month.

Support for other minor parties totalled 19 percent.

The number of voters polled who said they did not support any party or did not know whom they would vote for increased from 39 percent in August to 40 percent.

The margin of error was 3.3 percent.

The government's poor showing in the polls is mainly the result of tough cost-cutting measures announced in the July budget. Unemployment and social welfare payments have been reduced, health care is to cost more for most people and state pensions are to be lowered.

The National Party won a landslide victory over Labour in the October 27 election last year, gaining 67 of the country's 97 parliamentary seats. Since then two government MPs have quit National to form their own Liberal Party.

Global Warming Threatens Existence of Tokelau

BK2409062091 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] There has been a warning that everyone in the Pacific territory of Tokelau may eventually have to be evacuated because of increases in the earth's temperature. The Pacific News Agency, PAC NEWS, says the warning is contained in a report written by two Australian consultants for next year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

The consultants, (Stella Humphreys) and (David Collins), say the so-called greenhouse effect may eventually render Tokelau's three atolls uninhabitable. Scientists define the greenhouse effect as global warming caused by pollution of the atmosphere leading in turn to higher sea levels.

The consultants say if their worst fears are realized, Tokelau may cease to exist.

Commenting on the report, Tokelau's director of agriculture and fisheries, (Fua Taloa), said the next cyclone to hit the territory might force a decision on whether evacuation was necessary.

Tokelau which lies north of Western Samoa is administered by New Zealand and has a population of about 1,700.

Papua New Guinea

Government Prepared To Send Troops to Cambodia

BK2409084991 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Papua New Guinea says it is prepared to send troops to Cambodia or Lebanon if the United Nations requires its assistance in peacekeeping duties. The foreign minister, Sir Michael Somare, said his country is prepared to contribute a contingent of 20 to 30 soliders to a UN peacekeeping force.

He said the government had discussed the possibility and a draft legislation had already been drawn up. Sir Michael was speaking shortly after returning from New York where he made an unsuccessful bid for the presidency of the UN General Assembly.